

THE TIMES Saturday

Blue... The journey of a lifetime around Australia... remembered... The scandal of the men who were shot at dawn



... hills The best of shopping in Hampstead and Highgate Happy John Parker celebrates the village cricket final at Lord's ... highways Your chance to win a Ford Sierra XR4i

Irish police free kidnap victims

Mr Richard Hill and his daughter, Diane, relatives of an informer, who were threatened with death by their Irish National Liberation Army kidnappers, were rescued after a police raid in Co Donegal. Shots were fired as the Special Task Force freed the kidnap victims and there were two car chases along mountainous roads. A search failed to find the terrorists. Page 2

Space war ban

President Andropov of the Soviet Union proposed a moratorium on anti-satellite weapons in space, provided the United States response in kind. He told US senators that super power relations were tense. Page 5

Rent debts rise

Rent arrears on council houses have now reached record levels throughout the country. In London, about 300,000 tenants were said to be in debt last year. Page 3

Nkomo appeal

Mr Joshua Nkomo was welcomed by 5,000 supporters when he returned to his political stronghold of Bulawayo. He urged them to "pull together to make our nation one". Page 5

Poll bloodshed

Thirty-three people were killed, 309 arrested, and 26 houses burnt in a week of election violence in the western Nigerian state of Oyo, the Nigerian news agency reported. Page 4

Pevsner dies

Sir Nikolaus Pevsner, the architectural historian and author of a 46-volume guide to English buildings, died at his home in Hampstead, London, aged 81. Page 10

Coin sales drop

Sales of Kugermans in July were 20 per cent below those in the same month last year and more than a third down on June. Dealers blame gold's flat performance. Page 13

Greenham fury

A Greenham Common peace protester threatened a hunger strike when she was jailed for contempt amid chaotic scenes at Newbury Magistrates' Court. Page 2

American leads

Corey Pavin, of the United States, took a first round lead in the Benson and Hedges £110,000 International golf tournament at Fulford yesterday when he hit a seven under par 65. Page 18

Letters: On Rhine Army policy from General Sir David Fraser, David Steel from Mr C Darnett. Flour regulations from Dr W W Yellowless and others. Leading articles: Russia; British Rail; Northern Ireland. Features: pages 6-8. The lessons of the Shah of Iran's coup, 30 years ago today; holiday reading for Ronald Reagan; Edinburgh's annual competition; Spectrum: The Friday Page scuttles some naval traditions. Page 18. Obituary: page 10. Sir Nikolaus Pevsner, Ira Gershwin, Mr James Scotland, Elisaveta Fen.

Unions prepare for battle over 17,000 rail jobs

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Railway union leaders yesterday signalled their intention to resist British Rail's new five-year corporate plan, which envisages a further cut-back of 17,000 jobs and the closure of 1,900 "surplus" track miles. But their hostility was muted and there is no immediate threat of a strike over British Rail's plans to reduce by 25 per cent its reliance on government subsidies in the period up to 1988. Sir Peter Parker, the outgoing British Rail chairman, predicted that the unions would accept the proposals.

Mr Ray Buckton, general secretary of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, said his members would resist "anything that retards the quality of the service or the working conditions of those in the industry". Mr Jimmy Knapp, the National Union of Railwaymen general secretary, argued: "It looks as though the intention is to solve the industry's problems on the backs of the workforce."

But Sir Peter, who ends his seven-year chairmanship in three weeks, defended the plan saying: "I accept that change is very difficult and awkward. But we have lost about 200 people a week from this system for some time. The number we are talking about over the next five years is actually less than we have lost over the last few years."

"The way to secure future jobs in the industry is to see that change happens. While that may be troublesome, I have every confidence that the



Mr Ray Buckton: "Service will suffer".

Board intends to reduce manpower more quickly. The last five-year plan which proposed a reduction of 38,000 posts by 1985 will be exceeded by nearly 4,000 and a further 7,000 posts will be saved in the remaining three years of the plan. Corporate payroll numbers already down by 55,500 since 1975, will fall by a further 25,900 by the end of 1988. The railways will then employ only 142,000 people.

There is some suspicion in union circles that the plan, a much shorter document than expected, may not be the full story and that further proposals may be in hand for presentation to the Secretary of State for Transport.

Mr Knapp called for new investment decisions from the Cabinet if the railway system was not to suffer "a slow death", while Mr Buckton warned of fresh reductions in services, particularly in Southern Region, if the job cutbacks go ahead.

As many as 2,500 drivers' jobs are due to be phased out, though the Aslef leader insisted that British Rail is asking footplate men at depots such as Euston to work overtime because of a shortage of train crews. "Not only will our members be thrown on the scrap heap, but the service will suffer."

A protest is likely to be confined to that level at least for some weeks. The two sides are to begin talks on the corporate plan in mid-September. Streamlined Science, page 4. Leading article, page 9.

Shares set record for fourth day

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Shares continued their record rise with the FTSE 100 index up 1.1 per cent against the dollar in volatile currency markets yesterday.

The stock market moved ahead strongly after an initial rise on Wall Street. The FTSE 100 closed at 738.9, a rise on the day of 2.9. It was its fourth successive day of record closes.

With the dollar well below its recent highs, sterling closed up 1.05 cents at \$1.5235 and was also firmer against continental currencies. Its trade-weighted value gained 0.3 to 85.5.

There was also comfort for interest rates as the Treasury reassured financial markets that rapid growth in money supply should ease.

Figures from the Bank of England confirmed some slackening in money growth, although it is still well above target, and this has helped to dampen any remaining fears that domestic interest rates might have to rise soon.

However, other government indicators published yesterday provide evidence that the economic recovery is sluggish.

The longer leading cyclical indicators, which chart movements in the economy a year ahead, scarcely moved between April and July.

Money rate slows, page 13.

Owen backs Steel veto on manifesto

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Dr David Owen yesterday stepped into the Liberal Party dispute against Mr David Steel's veto of the general election manifesto by praising Mr Steel's courage and guts in standing up to his party when it had advocated policies which were against the national interest.

In an intervention which seemed certain to infuriate some sections of the Liberal Party, the Social Democratic Party leader suggested that if the Alliance had fought the election on the defence policy approved by the Liberal assembly it would have been lucky to have achieved what it did.

Dr Owen's remarks came in a radio interview when he made clear, in the strongest terms he has used, his opposition to a merger with the Liberals. What came out of a merger, he said, was not a leaner, tighter, harder party, but a "foggy" party.

He said that yesterday's opinion poll showing the Alliance in second place demonstrated the appeal of "two parties working together... and retaining some individuality, Liberal and Social Democrat."

But in what Liberals were seeing last night as signs of movement on Dr Owen's part, he gave his backing to a proposal which would allow the members of the Alliance party not fighting a particular seat to have a say over the choice of candidates being made by the other.

Although Dr Owen is opposed to the joint selection of candidates, which is seen as the logical step towards a merger, he said the more practical proposition was "joint shortlisting."

That would effectively mean that members of the party not fighting the seat would be able to prevent any candidate they considered unsuitable from being considered. That, Dr Owen said, was a mechanism for deepening the relationship without considering a merger.

The obvious difference of emphasis within the SDP over a merger was again on show yesterday as Mr Ian Wrigglesworth, one of the party's six MPs, spoke of the "quite futile and not very convincing" search for differences by some people in an attempt to prove the need for a permanent separate identity, and the exaggeration of the different electoral appeal which the two parties had to different sections of the public.

Mr Wrigglesworth, writing in *The Socialist Democrat*, said there had been talk of merger mania, but so far he had only seen mania demonstrated in the SDP by those opposed to a merger.

But Dr Owen's criticism of Liberal policies, and his tribute to Mr Steel for not adopting them, seemed likely to cause more of a controversy.

2,000 dismissed in orange juice row

By Amanda Haigh

All the 2,000 workers at a North Sea platform building yard were dismissed yesterday after a dispute over free orange juice and coffee for working in hot conditions.

The men, welders, fabricators, riggers, scaffolders and painters at Highlands Fabricators, of Nigg, 50 miles north of Inverness, walked out nine days ago in protest at the withdrawal of the free drinks and "cooling off" shelters.

They went on unofficial strike because of "excessive" heat inside the platform hull unit they were building for the Hutton Field. They said temperatures inside had increased after pre-heating was introduced.

The company could not give an exact temperature. A spokesman said the free drinks and cooling-off facilities had been withdrawn and steps taken to prevent abuse of showers after the temperatures were reduced. The free orange juice and coffee were costing the company £100,000 a year.

Mr Robert Walker, the managing director, told the men the company was in a very serious financial position because of low productivity, poor attendance, inefficient work practices, and recent unofficial strikes. The men had broken negotiating procedures.

Mr Rab Wilson, shop steward's spokesman, said: "We do not want a strike. Only recently we took a £20 a week pay cut to help the yard." He had been told the orange juice cost £20,000 a year, but for that each man would have to drink eight gallons a day.

Ban toxic weapons urges chemical war scientist

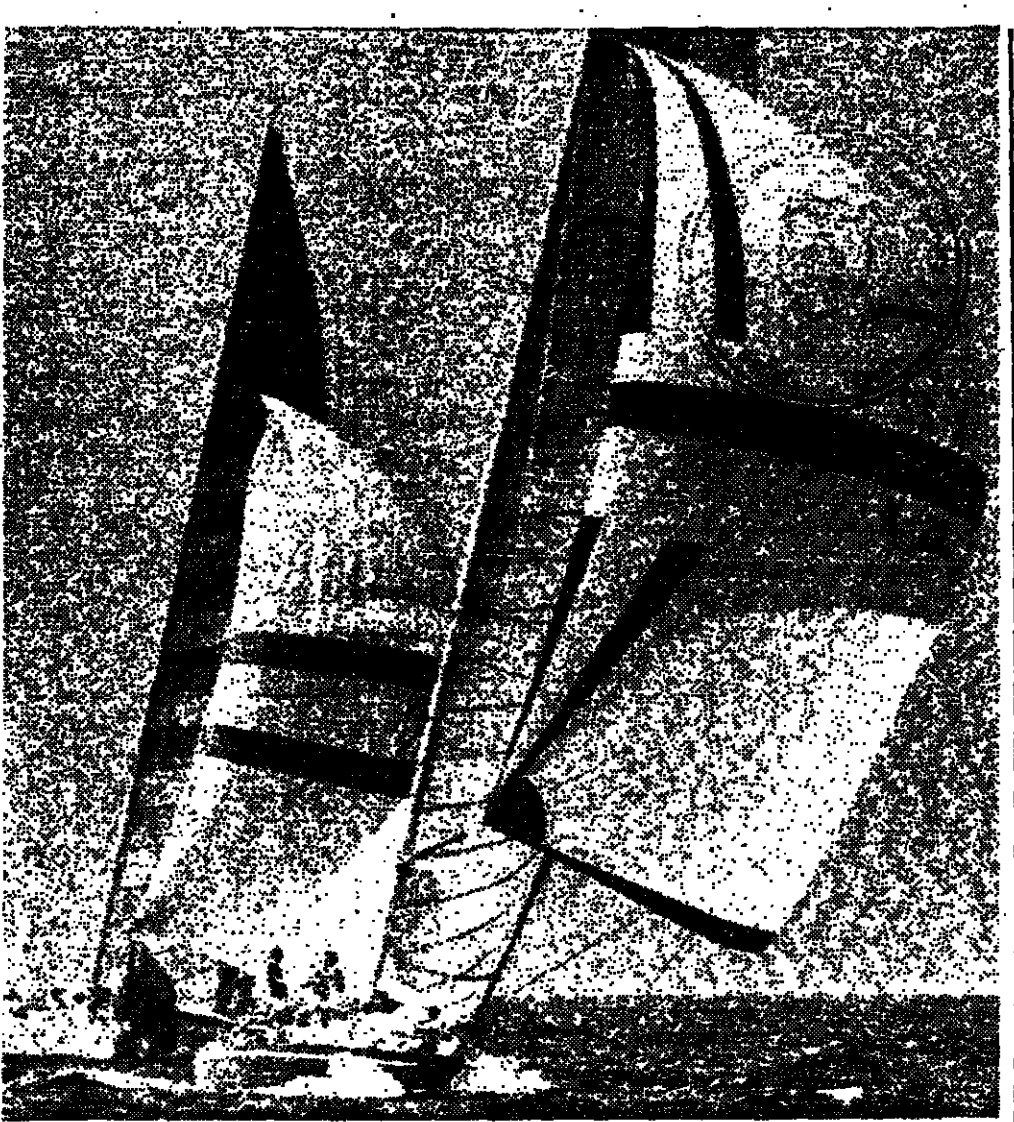
By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

A leading government expert on chemical weapons has made an unprecedented appeal to his colleagues to help find ways of banning such substances, some of which are so devastating that their effects on populations can match those of nuclear weapons.

Dr Thomas Inch, deputy chief scientific officer of the Chemical Defence Establishment at Porton Down, near Salisbury, says revision of the potential effects of chemical weapons has provoked widespread demands for a comprehensive ban, something he believes is possible.

In his appeal to the chemical and pharmaceutical industries, Dr Inch says chemical weapons can now be used as instruments of mass destruction, especially the so-called "supertoxins" which are lethal in unimaginable tiny amounts measured in less than 100,000th part of one milligram.

Until recently chemical warfare strategy involved their use on the battlefield merely to supplement conventional weapons, as in the First World War. However, if their use for mass destruction were envisaged, their effects would be catastrophic. That it could be argued nuclear retaliation was inevitable, and therefore a



Britain's Victory 83 (K-22) leads Canada I during foreign selection trials for the America's Cup off Newport. (Report, more photographs, back page.)

Hurricane shuts down Houston

Houston (Reuter) - Hurricane Alicia tore into the south coast of Texas with 120 mph winds early yesterday, cutting off the port city of Galveston and shutting down Houston, the state's biggest city.

Two people were reported killed by falling trees.

The eye of the storm hit Western Galveston Island, a coastal barrier island already deserted by residents ordered to evacuate their homes.

Early reports from Galveston said the city had escaped serious damage but a big hotel, the Galveston, was described as a wreck, with one side blown out.

The streets of Houston's business district were strewn with glass and the entire area was closed by police, bringing business to a halt. Houston's airports, some with light aircraft tipped on their backs, were closed until further notice.

Communications with Galveston were sporadic, and the extent of damage was not known. Most telephone lines were down and the main highway to Houston had been closed by rain since Wednesday.

At the Johnson Space Centre, south-east of the city, power was cut, trees were uprooted and windows blown out. Flooding forced evacuations and 15,000 people had sought refuge in shelters across south-east Texas.

So far, the Defence Ministry has admitted only to the presence of about 1,000 troops in Chad, most of them in and around the capital, with the rest deployed north along a strategic line some 280 miles south of the rebel-held town of Faya-Largeau.

The French news blackout appears to be designed to keep the Libyans guessing about the strength of French forces and their intentions. But that tactic could backfire. Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, believes some of the wilder rumours about the rapid and huge French build-up, and counters it with one of his own.

Meanwhile, American officials in Paris denied that the US has estimated the number of Libyan troops in Chad at about 6,000. The figure they said, was closer to 2,500. The Chad Embassy, however, put the number of Libyans at 5,000.

MONASTIR: At a news conference on his way home after a three-day visit to Tunisia, Colonel Gaddafi accused the United States of lying about involvement of Libyan troops in Chad to justify Washington's own interference there (AP reports).

Peace call: A joint communiqué issued by Tunisia and Libya at the end of Colonel Gaddafi's visit called for national reconciliation in Chad and the restoration of peace and security there. Spectrum, page 6.

French keep Libya guessing on troops

From Roger Beardwood, Paris

France continued to step up its reinforcements in and around Chad yesterday. A further 458 officers and men of the 9th division of Marine Infantry left Paris by air for Chad's neighbour, the Central African Republic and other troops ordered to the region are believed to include members of the Foreign Legion.

The Defence Ministry refused to confirm widespread reports that France is to commit as many as 3,000 soldiers to Chad as well as Air Force units. "We do not discuss numbers or movements," a spokesman said.

Between four and six sophisticated Jaguar ground-attack aircraft are known to be in the region and a number of troop transports. Some reports say French Air Force personnel are now inside Chad, others that they are still across the border in the Central African Republic.

More French military aircraft, including Jaguars are in other nearby African countries. The French are said to be working hastily to make the airport at Ndjamena, the capital, suitable for military aircraft and to install advanced radar systems.

At the same time, the rebels are trying to repair the airport at Faya-Largeau.

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US approves nuclear sale to Argentina

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

The Reagan Administration has approved the sale of 143 tons of "heavy water" to Argentina for its nuclear reactors despite the fact that the Buenos Aires Government has not signed the nuclear non-proliferation treaty and refuses to open its atomic facilities to international inspection.

Although American officials insist the heavy water could not be used for the production of nuclear weapons, the decision coincides with growing speculation in the US and Western Europe that Argentina may soon be in a position to explode a nuclear device.

The heavy water is owned by West Germany, but US approval of the \$100m (£66m) sale was necessary because it was produced by the United States. Until recently, West Germany owned the water jointly with Britain, but Britain sold its share to Germany before the present deal was approved.

According to US officials, no attempt was made to obtain approval for the sale by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) as has generally been the case in the past. NRC's approval was not required under US law because the heavy water is owned by another country. However, NRC officials have privately expressed concern about the deal.

Argentina has one of the most advanced nuclear industries in the Third World and has insisted on its right to stage peaceful nuclear explosions, although it has consistently denied any intention of producing nuclear weapons.

It is currently in the process of building an unsafeguarded reprocessing plant that could produce weapons-grade plutonium, but that plant will not use heavy water.

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B.P.T.A. MEMBER

Council concern grows as rent arrears reach record levels

By David Walker, Local Government Correspondent

Councils are owed record amounts in unpaid rent and housing managers are increasingly worried by arrears which in some areas total as much as 15 per cent of rent income.

In Newcastle upon Tyne, arrears grew by 27 per cent between March, last year, and March, this year. In Birmingham, they are estimated at £10m out of total rent income of £142m. In Liverpool, traditionally an area with high arrears, the figure is more than 11 per cent of rent income - down from the record 15.5 per cent in 1981-82, when a prolonged strike by typists threw the system into disarray.

Some of the worst arrears have accumulated in London, where recent sharp rent rises were in the words of one housing manager, the "last straw" for many tenants. During last year arrears in Newham increased by 80 per cent. At the end of the year, arrears in London totalled more than £80m.

An unpublished survey prepared for the Association of London Borough Housing Officers found that, by the end of last year about 300,000 tenants in the capital were in debt to their council landlords.

In the Labour-controlled borough of Lambeth, 30,000 of 45,000 tenants were in arrears last winter; half of Camden's tenants owed back rent. The problem is not confined to Labour areas. One third of Harrow's tenants were in arrears and 24,000 of Wandsworth's 38,000 tenants. Both boroughs are Conservative-controlled.

The report, written by Mr Jim Draper, of the Housing Officers' Association, depicts a crisis, which has probably worsened since the survey was carried out. In the North-east and North-west a comparable picture has emerged from inquiries by *The Times*.

In Newcastle upon Tyne, where rents have been increased by more than the retail price index, arrears amounted to 2.9 per cent of rent totals in 1981-82, but were 3.7 per cent by the end of 1982-83. These figures relate to present tenants; a further £300,000 is owed by people who have since moved out.

A council official pointed to the growth in long-term unemployment in trying to explain the rise; the government's new housing benefit system for low-income tenants introduced in April appears to have made no difference to the problem.

Birmingham City Council blamed the sharp increase in arrears last autumn on a scullie at a local Department of Health and Social Security office which delayed payments of benefits.

According to Mr Draper's report on London, which draws on evidence from all the boroughs, the big growth of arrears has little to do with the absolute level of rents but rather with recent increases which since 1980 have pushed rents up by more than 70 per cent.

● Birmingham City Council has recruited a private debt collection agency to try to track down tenants who vanish leaving behind large arrears. The decision was taken after the council had to write off £2m in unrecovered rents last year.

Koo Stark fails to reveal anything



Miss Koo Stark's Australian television debut last night on the *Parkinson Show* was described by Brian Courtis, television critic of *The Age* newspaper in Melbourne, as almost "the non-interview of the decade".

BBC service for computers

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent

The BBC is expected to begin regular transmission of programs for home computers from next month. Its teletext service, Ceefax, are required to "link" the program from the Ceefax broadcasts, will be made available.

The program will be free to the user but the Acorn adaptor is expected to retail for about £200, the dozen or so programs available will be charged every two weeks.

In the future computer programs testing pupils' attention to a specific school broadcast may be transmitted on Ceefax for use by teachers on school computers.

This new market of "teletextware" is being investigated by several companies prepared to offer a similar service on cable television.

The home computer software division of the company has been writing and testing the programs for Atari, Commodore, and Texas Instrument machines. The programs, which include educational ones as well as video games, would be "pumped" down cable and the home computer, connected to the television, would select a program suitable for the particular computer.

Nuncio cautions Pope's 'double'

The Vatican has not given permission for a Merseyside policeman to impersonate the Pope at charity events, and would not be likely to if asked, a spokesman for the Pope's representative in Britain said yesterday.

Police Constable William Bird, of Litherland, was seeking clarification yesterday of the Vatican's official view of his striking resemblance to the Pope, and whether it approves at his using the resemblance to raise money for charity.

He had a letter from a senior Vatican official after he sent off photographs of himself in copies of papal robes his wife made for him. It said "The Holy Father wishes you to know that he appreciates the sentiments which prompted you to write to him and thanks you very much for the photographs. He invokes God's blessing upon you."

Photograph of PC Bird, aged 50, a Roman Catholic and a policeman for 26 years, were published in newspapers and charity organizers asked him to make appearances. But then a statement from the Vatican denied that the Pope had given permission.

Yesterday Mgr Luigi Ventura, a spokesman for Archbishop Bruno Heim, the Papal Nuncio in Britain, said: "The Vatican has not given permission for Mr Bird to impersonate the Pope."

As far as I am aware Mr Bird has not formally requested permission to impersonate the Pope. If he makes an official request to do this it would be considered, but I feel it is unlikely that it would be granted. It is a question of good taste."

PC Bird said yesterday: "I never claimed that I had official approval. That was how the newspapers and television interpreted the letter I received from the Vatican."

He said he would try to communicate with the Vatican through the Archbishop of Liverpool, Mgr Derek Worlock.

Football clubs given stiffer crowd rules

By Kenneth Goaling

The 92 Football League clubs were given yesterday a list of crowd control measures to be put into effect from the start of the new season next Saturday. Clubs will face strong disciplinary action if they fail to implement the mandatory measures.

Welcoming the recommendations, which include strong emphasis on forward planning on the control of alcohol sales in grounds, and improved liaison with the police, Mr Neil Macfarlane, Minister for Sport, said that spectator violence was "an unacceptable problem that besets our national game".

A liaison group including government departments, the football bodies, British Rail, and the Association of Chief Police Officers drew up the present recommendations after being set up in 1981 to work with the Spanish authorities to try to prevent crowd trouble at the World Cup finals in Spain last year.

The most important aspect of the guidelines is that for the first time clubs will be ordered to take certain crowd-control measures. Others are strongly recommended.

There are nine mandatory measures. Clubs must: Make adequate arrangements to segregate rival supporters; Undertake detailed liaison with the police, the opposing club, and rail and coach operators at least 10 days before a match to determine movement of spectators and arrangements (in case of FA or League Cup matches consideration must be given to replay arrangements); Ensure that terraces are kept free of objects that could be used as missiles;

Close relationships with supporters' clubs are urged, with encouragement to supporters to travel to away matches in chartered, stewarded, responsible groups.

Mr Macfarlane also referred to powers available to the courts to deal firmly with offenders and drew attention to by-laws banning alcohol on trains carrying supporters.

Three still critically ill after crash

Three people were still critically ill yesterday after the lorry crash involving a lorry and a National Express coach in which three people died (see page 1).

Two of the dead were named as Mrs Annie Phillips, aged 52, of Swansea, and Mr Patrick Jean Barrie, aged 35, from Paris. Those critically ill were Mr John Lyons, the lorry driver, aged 30, from Cardiff; Mrs Catherine Roche, aged 60, from Northolt, Middlesex; and John Austin, aged 14, from Bristol.

Mr Paul Morris, aged 27, a builder, and his French-born wife, Chantal, aged 26, were coach passengers injured in the crash, and they described it from hospital yesterday.

Mr Morris said he saw the lorry "coming up the other dual carriageway in the other lane. Then the wheel just exploded underneath the driver; it blew out, and I saw the tyre disintegrate. The lorry spun round, turned 30 degrees and came straight towards the barrier."

The compulsory measures on alcohol are reinforced by a strong recommendation that the sales of alcohol within stadiums should be restricted or, on occasions, banned, except in approved areas.

Clubs are also recommended to take legal steps to ban known troublemakers and cooperate as closely as possible with magistrates. Leading players and officials should, the guidelines say, appeal in programmes and over public address systems for good behaviour.

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House prices show 5% increase

By Baron Phillips, Property Correspondent

House prices rose by almost 5 per cent in the second quarter of this year, the largest three-monthly increase in four years, the Abbey National Building Society said yesterday.

The society says the rise signals a return of market confidence, and predictions of a price boom probably overstates the position. "Where, they may run the danger of becoming self-fulfilling prophecies by encouraging sellers to add, say, 10 per cent to the price of their home because of rumour or speculation," the society said.

According to the Abbey, the average cost of buying a home is now £27,428, more than £1,200 higher than in the first quarter of this year.

On these figures, the annual rate of increase in house prices is just under 10 per cent, its highest for two years. But the society has given a warning against further sharp price rises this year because most buying is undertaken in the first three months.

Southern England has led the way in price increases, although Wales reflected the largest quarterly rise with the cost of buying a home advancing by almost 8 per cent. Average price rises in the Greater London area were 7.5 per cent; the South-east recorded an increase of just over 6 per cent.

First-time London buyers have had to increase their advances by more than £1,250 to £25,775.

The cost of house-buying in Northern Ireland fell by more than 3 per cent in the second quarter of the year and, according to the Abbey, prices are almost 6 per cent lower than a year ago.

Abbey says that the highest annual increase has been seen in East Angles, where prices rose by almost 15 per cent, followed by the North at 14.5 per cent. In the South-east, the society indicates that prices have risen by 14 per cent.

The average price of an acre of farmland in Britain has risen above £2,000 for the first time, according to a report published yesterday.

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British Rail promises streamlined service and to reduce its costs

By John Young

A highly optimistic assessment of the future of British Rail in contrast to the gloomy projections of the recent Serpell report, is put forward in the British Railways Board's corporate plan for 1983-88, published yesterday.

The plan envisages no drastic changes in the size of the rail network, proposing a reduction of only about 1,900 track miles. Instead, it predicts an increased volume passenger and freight traffic which, combined with manpower reductions of 17,000 and other productivity gains, will much reduce the need for government grants.

"The aim of the plan is to take the railway out of recession through increased volume and improved labour and other productivity, leading to a reduction in real terms of the cost to the taxpayer", it says.

The board said yesterday that it expected to move into profit from 1985 onwards, with group profits of more than £90m by 1988.

For the current year it estimates the railways' operating losses at £960m which, offset by a public service operation (PSO) grant from the Government and local authorities of £934m, leaves a deficit of £17m.

But by 1988 it expects to have reduced the losses of £639m. Assuming a PSO grant of £708m, that would leave an operating surplus of £69m and, after taking other activities into account, would be translated into a consolidated profit of £93m.

The plan bases its assumptions on the expectation of big improvements in customer service and competitiveness, operational and administrative efficiency, and labour productivity, including a further reduction of 17,000 jobs.

It avoids the question of future fares but says that "growth in passenger volume must be won in a highly competitive market by improving product quality and per-

formance and through marketing initiatives".

Railway investment is expected to increase by half in 1985 over the present level of about £300m. There will be a big recovery of the backlog of maintenance and renewal of infrastructure over the next five years, the plan says.

There will be much investment in main line, suburban, and provincial rolling stock renewal and improved stan-

disused lines

Freight only

Passenger lines

Scotland: Ladybank to Hinton

North-east: Northallerton to

Eastgate 16 miles, Wether Road

junction to Dene Road junction, 5

miles; Oakenshaw junction to

Goose Hill 2½ miles; and Gilders

Road, Leeds 1½ miles.

North-west: Garraon junction to

Hall Royal, Manchester, 9½

miles; Brindle Heath to Aggort

junction, Manchester, 7½ miles;

and Biston Deo junction to

Seasdale, Cheshire, 1½ miles.

Midlands: Nuneaton Midland

to Nuneaton Abbey, 1½ miles.

Western: Thimbley junction to

Bradford junction, 8½ miles;

Wetherby avoiding line, 2½ miles;

and Frome avoiding line, 2 miles.

London: Old Oak Common to

North Pole junction, ½ mile.

Regular passenger lines

Ribblehead - Appleby

Marlebone - Northolt junction

Healey-in-Arden - Brearley

junction.

dards of punctuality, reliability,

cleanliness, and information.

About £30m a year will be spent

on station refurbishment.

On the freight side, the board

intends to withdraw the loss

making Wagonload system, and

to concentrate on the Speedlink

and Freightliner services. Level

crossings will continue to be

modernized as quickly as local

authority consultation pro-

cedures permit.

As against the drastic cuts in

route mileage suggested in the

Serpell report, the plan proposes

a reduction of only about 1,900

track miles, described as no

longer essential to the running

of the railway.

Of the other 600 track miles

proposed for closure, amount-

ing to 382 route miles, about a

third are out of use and another

third carry freight only.

That leaves a balance of 66

route miles with no intermed-

iate stations (see inset), and 49

miles of regular passenger

services being considered for

closure. The latter comprise 30

miles between Ribbleshead and

Appleby on the Settle to Carlisle

line, and the lines between

Marlebone and Northolt junc-

tion and between Healey-in-

Arden and Brearley junction.

The board emphasized that,

although the ending of passen-

ger services on the Settle-Car-

lisle route was a firm decision, it

proposed to keep the line, apart

from the Rippledhead-Appleby

section, open for freight. No

decision had yet been taken on

the closure of Marlebone

station in London and the

diversion of services into

Paddington.

The plan is said to differ from

those of previous years in that it

contains only those projects that

the board believes have a high

probability of achievement

within the five-years of the plan.

An early start on a 10-year

programme of electrification,

beginning with the main line

from King's Cross to Newcastle

upon Tyne and Edinburgh,

remains a priority.

For commuter services in

London and the South-east, the

aim is to keep the average level

of cancellations to below 1.5 per

cent and for at least 87.5 per

cent of trains to arrive within

five minutes of their schedule

● Conversion of the disused

tunnel of the former

Manchester to Sheffield railway

into part of a new road link

between the two cities is

technically feasible, a report

published by the Joint Centre

for Land Development Studies

of Reading University and the

College of Estate Management

says.

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Bar massacre driver charged

The scene at the Inland Motel in central Australia after a lorry driver who had been refused a drink drove his 120-tonne juggernaut into the bar.

Two men and two women killed immediately and a fifth person died later in hospital in Alice Springs, about 250 miles to the north-east. More than a dozen people were injured, some seriously (Tony Dubou-din writes).

The driver escaped in the confusion,

but some hours later the police using Aboriginal trackers, arrested an Alice Springs man aged 36 at a construction camp. He was charged with four counts of murder.

Yesterday the "road train" - the name given to the super juggernauts used in northern Australia - which had ploughed 90ft into the motel, was still embedded in the wreckage. Many people were crushed by the lorry which was hauling three fully-laden trailers. "The place has been almost

demolished. There was blood every-where", a police spokesman said.

The rescue operation was hampered by heavy rain and the distance to the nearest hospital at Alice Springs. The injured had to be flown there by the Royal Flying Doctor service.

A witness said that the lorry started its run at the motel from 100 yards. "From what I could gather some people saw it coming and tried to get out of the way", he said.

Queensland crisis forces election

From Tony Dubou-din, Melbourne

The National Party-Liberal Party coalition which has ruled Queensland for 26 years has ended and Mr Johannes Bjelke-Petersen now heads a minority National Party government.

The Premier announced yesterday that Sir James Ramsay, the State Governor, had accepted the resignation of the seven Liberal Party members of the Cabinet. When they were first submitted on Monday Sir James rejected the resignations on the advice of Mr Bjelke-Petersen.

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Averting a satellite war

Russia offers freeze in space

From Richard Owen, Moscow

President Andropov took the initiative on arms control yesterday by imposing a moratorium on anti-satellite weapons in space provided the United States does the same.

During a meeting with a visiting delegation of Democratic Senators, Mr Andropov said that the Soviet Union assumed the commitment not to be the first to put into outer space any type of anti-satellite weapon. He said this amounted to a moratorium by Russia on such launchings "for the entire period during which other states including the US refrain from stationing in outer space anti-satellite weapons of any kind".

Although Mr Andropov described this as an "exceptionally important decision", diplomats pointed out that the Soviet Union is believed to have already tested so-called "killer satellites" and laser weapons in space. "The proposal sounds more convincing than it really is", one diplomat said.

According to Tass, Mr Andropov told the Senators that Moscow wanted complete prohibition on the testing and deployment of all space-based weapons designed to hit targets on Earth. He said his "radical proposal" covered not only the elimination of existing anti-satellite systems but also a ban on development of new ones.

Diplomats said the initiative was a step in the right direction, but had little to do with the central issues in either the medium-range missile talks or the Strategic Arms Reductions Talks (SALT). It was partly based on Russia's fear that it could not match American space weapons developments.

During the meeting, senator Patrick Leahy of Vermont told Mr Andropov that there was widening distress among both Democrats and Republicans over Soviet arms activities. Senator Leahy said the political basis for American observance of the SALT 2 treaty, which America has not ratified, was being weakened, and a climate was being created which would make Senate approval of any future arms agreement much more difficult.

The Soviet leader said that relations between Moscow and Washington were tense in almost every field, but not by Soviet choice. In a game without rules, it would be a dangerous miscalculation to try to gain superiority over Russia at a time of tensions, Mr Andropov said.

Much would depend on the Geneva negotiations, where an agreement before the deployment of new Nato missiles in Europe was still possible. The stationing of Pershing and cruise missiles in Europe would, however, lead to a lethally dangerous new round in the arms race and would have far-reaching consequences affecting America itself.

"The Americans will also feel the difference between the situation which existed before the deployment and that which will take shape after it", Mr Andropov said ominously.

He did not, however, spell out Russia's likely response or put forward new proposals on medium-range missiles. Diplomatic sources said such moves could be expected when the talks recommence in September after a Soviet request for an early resumption.

● WASHINGTON: Senator John Glenn, the former astronaut and a Democratic Presidential candidate has called for an expanded US space programme, including a permanent manned station and an agreement with the Soviet Union to ban space weapons (Reuters reports).

"A bold space programme can produce large scale benefits for the American people in the form of new products, new services and increased productivity", he said in a statement to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

● GENEVA: Moscow indicated yesterday that it would take retaliatory measures if the United States ended a 14-year moratorium on chemical weapons production and went ahead with plans to manufacture nerve gas shells (Reuters reports).

Mr Viktor Issraelian, the Kremlin's ambassador to the Geneva disarmament committee, accused Washington of dragging its feet in negotiations here on an international convention banning chemical weapons.

It was doing so, he said, to have a free hand to implement the full-scale plan of the Pentagon to build up the American chemical arsenal.

The Hispanic vote

Traditional crop pickers of US prepare to pick the president

From Christopher Thomas, Washington



Mr Anaya: Force behind registration drive

Hispanic Americans, who could have enormous political influence if they ended their interminable feuds, are watching with trepidation and wonder as United States troops pour into Central America, and that might help to unite them.

President Reagan spent a few days courting their support last week, speaking sometimes in crippled Spanish from a prepared text. By all assessments, the net result was to strengthen the overwhelming opposition of most Hispanic Americans to what he is doing in Central America.

The real fear - unrealistic though the Administration says it is - is that the US will go to war in the south, and that Hispanics will be sent back to their old countries to fight brothers and cousins. Only the Cubans feel differently; they ache to return with guns in hand.

Next to blacks, Hispanics are the poorest people of the US. Their divisions are a reflection of the conflicts and differences endemic in Central and South America. Hence the Puerto Ricans in New York have little in common with Mexican farm workers in California, or with Cuban refugees in Miami.

Apart from Cubans, the Hispanics overwhelmingly vote Democrat, when they vote at all. Earlier this month, 200 Hispanic leaders throughout the US opened a national drive to register a million more of their people to vote by next year, with the direct aim of influencing the choice of the next president.

Mr Tony Anaya, a Mexican-American who is the new Governor of New Mexico and one of the principal forces behind the registration drive, said: "It appears to me that we have become a crucial group, not only in the presidential process but in many areas of the country, at all levels of electoral politics".

Paraphrasing a recent remark by the Rev Jesse Jackson, the black leader, he added: "The hands that have historically picked the lettuce are the hands that can pick the next president".

The campaign will cost \$3.3m (\$2.2m), a mere drop in the ocean of money spent by politicians and causes in the US, but large by the Hispanic record. There will be 300 local registration campaigns in 28 states.

Among Hispanics there is a widespread feeling that at last their time has come. They have elected several leaders of national standing, including

Number of Hispanics in US (1980 census): 14,000,000
Number eligible to vote: 5,500,000
Number registered to vote: 3,100,000
Number voting (estimate for 1980 residential election): 58 per cent
Main groups: Mexican-American (Citizenship: Mexican: 80 per cent, Puerto Rican: 20 per cent, Cuban: 10 per cent)
Main concentrations: New York, California, Florida, New Mexico, Texas.
Voting patterns: Cubans: Almost exclusively Republican. Others: Between 70 and 80 per cent Democrat (unofficial estimate).
Unemployment: 12.3 per cent among Hispanics, compared with 9.5 nationally.

Keep Polish sanctions going, say Americans

Warsaw (Reuters) - A delegation of US Congressmen left Poland saying that Western sanctions should not be lifted until the communist authorities introduce a human rights programme satisfying their own people.

The seven-member group met General Jaruzelski and senior ministers who made it clear they saw the sanctions as unjust and destructive to all sides.

Representative Clarence Long, the group's leader, said they had hoped to see Mr Lech Walesa, head of Solidarity but "it was intimated we would not be welcome in the country if we insisted on seeing him".

UK workforce

The workforce for the Falklands airport project would be recruited entirely from the British labour market, the joint contractors Laing/Mowlem/Arc stated. A local cook and adviser were being employed by the advance party of surveyors and geologists but this would be for only about four weeks until the main construction party arrived on October 1.

Islanders vote

Wellington (Reuters) - Sir Gaven Donne, the Queen's representative in the Cook Islands, has dissolved the assembly and set November 2 as the date for the second election this year in the self-governing Pacific islands.

Quake toll rises

Manila (AP) - The death toll from a strong earthquake in the northern Philippines on Wednesday rose to 13 as rescue workers continued clearing the rubble of collapsed buildings. At least 16 other people were injured.

Honecker goes

Warsaw (AFP) - Herr Erich Honecker, East German Head of State and Communist Party chief, left here after a three-day visit during which he met with his Polish counterpart, General Jaruzelski.

Last shave

Palermo (AP) - Two gunmen shot and killed Giacomo Misseri, aged 33 while he was having a shave at a barber shop in this Mafia stronghold. His brother was killed last November.

Weinberger for Central America

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington

Mr Casper Weinberger, the US Defence Secretary, will underscore United States commitment to military involvement in Central America in a three-nation tour early next month.

His presence at a time of intense concern about the build-up of the American military in the region will serve to emphasize that the Administration is determined not to scale down its long-term presence.

Mr Weinberger will visit Panama, El Salvador and Honduras. Panama is the headquarters of the US Southern Command, El Salvador is the principal theatre of America's anti-leftist policies, and Honduras is the site of huge US military manoeuvres that will last until next January.

Apart from meeting the military, Mr Weinberger, whose tour is from September 6 to 8, will talk to senior Government figures in the three countries. The US regards them all as important allies in its struggle to prevent the spread of Cuban and Soviet influence in Central America.

He confirmed that the US has no plans for a significant increase in its self-imposed ceiling on the number of advisers in El Salvador - currently 55. "A good deal of training is going to be done in Honduras", he said. "That argues that you will not need more in El Salvador."

In familiar style, Mr Weinberger was low-key about his forthcoming visit. He said he would be looking at the "important exercises" in Honduras, speaking to various officials of the host countries and seeking the points of view of US troops. Symbolically, however, the trip will serve as a rejection of widespread congressional demands for Washington to ease up in Central America.

There is growing alarm about the supposed passage of several Soviet-block cargo vessels towards Nicaragua, supposedly laden with arms for the Sandinista regime. Two weeks ago the US Navy halted a Russian ship off Nicaragua and asked for its name, destination and cargo but Mr Weinberger emphasized that no Soviet vessels would be stopped.

US reconnaissance aircraft have spotted a Soviet cargo vessel in the Caribbean, and according to the Pentagon it is loaded with arms for Nicaragua.



Family reunion: Mr Nkomo and his wife together again at their Bulawayo home.

5,000 welcome Nkomo in Bulawayo

From Stephen Taylor, Harare

Mr Joshua Nkomo returned to his political stronghold of Bulawayo yesterday with a message of peace and received his most enthusiastic welcome since his arrival from Britain on Tuesday.

The midday arrival of the Patriotic Front leader at the modest suburban home which he fled five months ago was met by an estimated 5,000 supporters, many of whom had waited since dawn.

Mr Nkomo reportedly told them in Ndebele: "We must pull together to make our nation one. If there is conflict we cannot settle it by killing each other."

Although welcomed in Bulawayo, his return is being virtually ignored by the press and broadcasting media in Harare. A leading article headlined: "Dr Who?" in the semi-official Herald newspaper yesterday declared: "The Government would be shooting itself in the foot if it so much as called on him to account for his actions in London."

"He is desperately trying to regain the limelight. Or become a martyr. Dr Nkomo should be ignored as the spent force that he is."

After indicating on his return that he had proposals for a new initiative to repair relations between the Patriotic Front and the ruling Zanu (PF) Party, Mr Nkomo's performance in Parliament on Wednesday was being seen yesterday as a thorough let-down.

A Government spokesman said Mr Nkomo had not met Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, since his return and there were no plans for talks.

Mr Nkomo was driven the 300 miles to Bulawayo because all flights were fully booked yesterday morning. He was met by his wife, Johanna, who was held under effective house arrest after leaving Zimbabwe to join him in March.

Mr Nkomo has also been spending time with his daughter, Thandwe, and Mr John Ndlovu, his son-in-law, who was arrested after his flight and held for three months during which he was beaten up and his jaw and ribs broken.

Israeli soldier killed as rockets hit camp

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

Israeli troops have been attacked again, far behind the new front line, that they are building for themselves in southern Lebanon. A short barrage of Katyusha rockets - apparently fired by guerrillas near the Israeli-occupied town of Rachaya - killed one Israeli soldier and wounded three others when the missiles landed in a military camp a mile from Major Saad Haddad's south Lebanese "Capital" of Marjayoun.

The rockets were fired over a wide trajectory, some exploding 50 yards from a position manned by Norwegian troops of the United Nations force.

The Israeli camp outside Marjayoun is the largest, logistics and supply base in southern Lebanon. Palestinian guerrillas and Lebanese have often spoken of their desire to shell it. Reports from southern Lebanon said that Israeli troops had closed all roads in the area and were searching a region at the foot of Mount Hermon near the Hasbaya river in the hope of finding the missile launcher.

The dead soldier, Corporal Yosef Cohen, aged 40, brought to 517 the number of Israelis to have been killed in Lebanon since Israel's invasion in June last year.

Meanwhile Israel's imminent withdrawal from the Shouf mountains was discussed yesterday between President Amin Gemayel of Lebanon and Mr Osama el-Baz, Egypt's principal envoy to Lebanon. Mr el-Baz said that Israel's partial pull-back to the Awali river should not be allowed to create a de facto partition. "The positions and military fortifications Israel is building behind the new front line in the south do not suggest a temporary presence," he said.

Press group protests to Turkey

By Edward Mortimer

The closure of two of Turkey's leading newspapers by the military regime has drawn a protest from Mr Peter Gallingier, the director of the International Press Institute.

Thurman, the leading conservative paper, was banned last week, and this week it was the turn of the moderate Milliyet. Both have been shut indefinitely without any official explanation.

It was understood, however, that in the first case the regime objected to a critical article written by Mrs Nazli Ilıcak, one of Turkey's best known right-wing journalists, and in the second to articles by Mr Nefiz Tokat, a former independent senator.

Both writers were urging the Government to take a liberal line in allowing new parties to be formed for the November elections. So far only parties encouraged or approved by the military regime have been able to register.

In letters to President Kenan Evren and to Mr Bülend, the Prime Minister, Mr Gallingier says IPI is dismayed by the closing of Milliyet.

3,000 flee flood

Bombay (AP) - The Bhima river flooded the Hindu holy town of Pandharpur in Maharashtra state, forcing more than 3,000 people to flee low-lying areas.

Spy chief opposed Iraq reactor raid

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

The former chief of Israeli military intelligence has disclosed that he opposed the controversial bombing raid which destroyed the Iraqi nuclear reactor near Baghdad in June 1981.

Major-General Yehoshua Saguy said in an Israeli television interview that he had opposed the raid because it might have created a precedent in Middle Eastern warfare which could have damaged Israel in the future and also because it could have caused a serious split with Israel's main ally, the United States.

His remarks were taken to indicate that he had expressed fears that Arab states might try to launch similar preemptive attacks against Israeli nuclear installations, whose heavily guarded existence in the Negev desert is an open secret.

General Saguy was speaking after announcing that he is leaving the Army. He lost his post as head of military intelligence because of his actions during the massacre of Palestinian refugees in the Sabra and Chatila camps last year.

He said he had estimated that Iraq would have needed between five and 10 years longer to build a nuclear bomb, a period which he argued would have been sufficient to use non-military means to prevent the development.

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SPECTRUM

THE TIMES One of the world's poorest countries has become a chessboard where pieces are moved by powerful outside players. The 16-year-old civil war – an intricate and shifting patchwork of tribal and personal rivalries – now threatens to ignite fighting between the French and Libyan armies. The United States and anti-Libyan African countries wait in the wings

THE COUNTRY

Hole in the heart of Africa

Chad is an area of land which has never formed itself into an effective state and now barely counts as one.

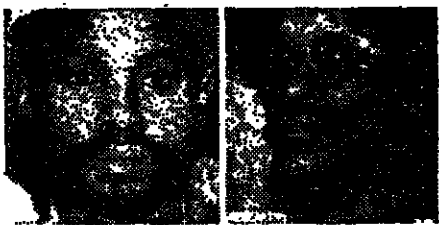
Physically, politically and economically it is a vacuum at the heart of Africa which must provide a constant temptation to meddle for any even mildly voracious regime in power in the surrounding nations.

From the rugged mountains of the far north it descends into the wastes of the Sahara desert before, from about the 16th parallel beginning gradually to emerge into savannah.

The north is very thinly populated. Covering roughly half the area of the country, it contains only a little more than 2 per cent of the population, perhaps 80,000 people. They are almost entirely nomadic Muslims.

The south is largely populated by the Sara people, of Bantu stock. They have a much more settled way of life, and having access to virtually the only arable land in the country, they produce the two main cash crops of cotton and groundnuts. They are predominantly either Christian or animist.

The unmetalled roads which link north with south are primarily the product of a bitter and divisive past, for until slavery was stamped out by the French they were essentially arteries for northern slave-traders to descend on the tribes of the south.



Habré Goukouni

Almost no working institutions of government link these two halves of a nation created by the draughtsman who arranged the map of Africa in the wake of the departing European colonial powers. The banking system has collapsed and earlier this year the Government announced a moratorium on its debts of \$75m.

But according to World Bank statistics Chad is one of ten nations which have failed to achieve positive growth in their gross national product since 1960. And with a 2.2 per cent per capita annual average rate of decline, its record is the worst in the world.

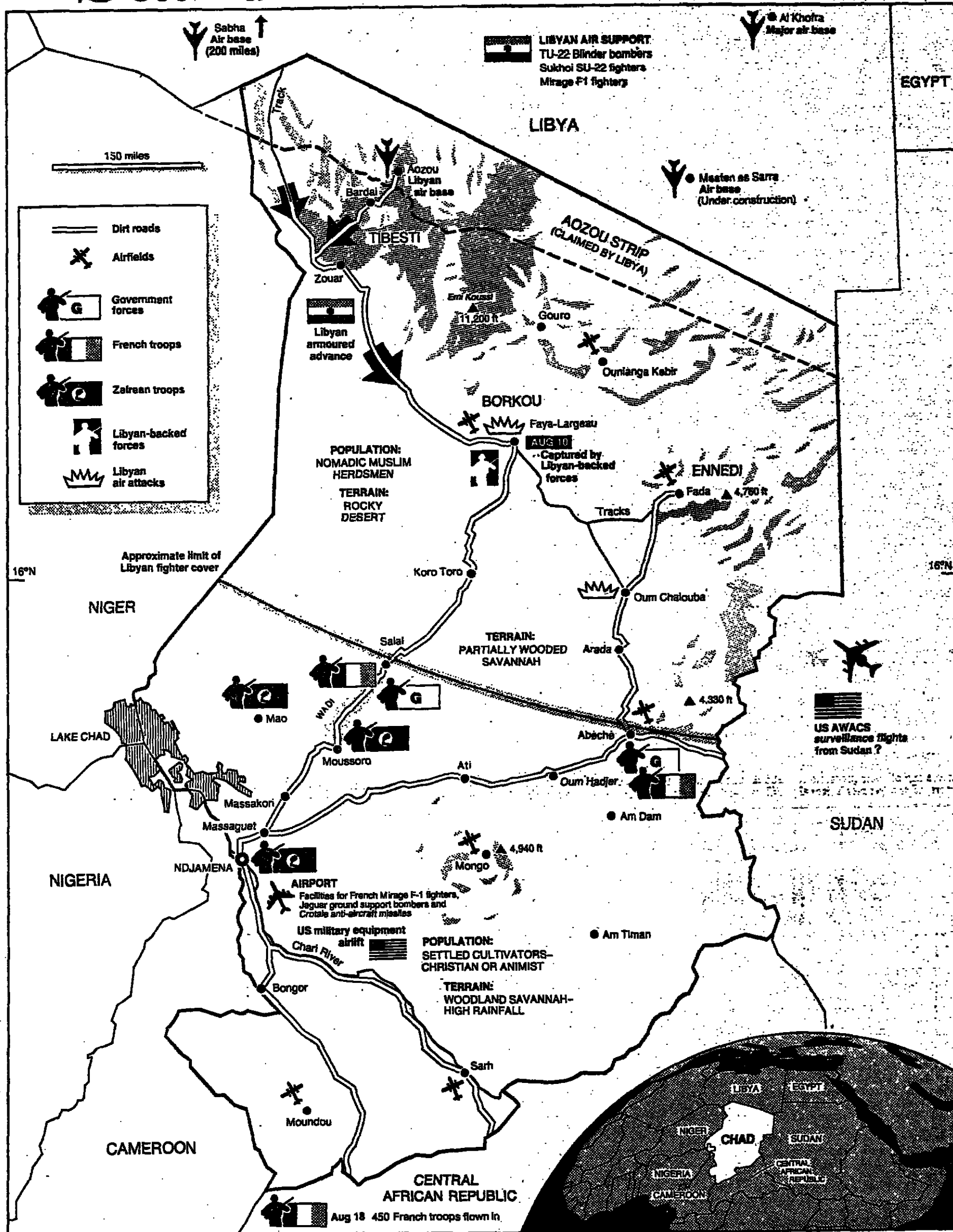
New divisions have now arisen with the people of the north resenting the greater resources and wealth of the south. Despite this, the present struggle for power, which continues 16 years of endemic internecine warfare, is not essentially between north and south, but between two northern leaders.

These are Hissene Habré, who emerged in the mid-1970s leading northern forces in resisting the anti-Muslim tendencies of the then-government, and Goukouni Oueddei, whom he displaced as president last year. Goukouni is a son of the spiritual leader of the Toubou, the main northern tribe.

For a time they worked together in the Chad government in 1979 with Goukouni as president and Habré as defence minister. This ended with Goukouni claiming that Habré was trying to seize power with French support.

Although Libyan attitudes have wavered from time to time, it has largely, as now, supported Goukouni. Its attitude seems mainly to have been determined by the posture of the contestants in relation to Libya's claim to sovereignty over the Aozou Strip in the north, which is believed to contain uranium and other minerals, and which it has effectively controlled for a decade.

Stand-off in the desert



FACTS ON CHAD

Land area: Chad occupies an area of 490,000 square miles, which makes it about five times as large as the United Kingdom, almost ten times the size of England and more than twice as large as France. It is the largest country to emerge from the break-up of French Equatorial Africa.

Population: It is estimated to number about 4,500,000 people. These are heavily concentrated in the south, with the northern half having a population of only about 88,000.

Economy: According to World Bank statistics it had a per capita income in 1981 of \$110, which ranks it among the

three or four poorest countries in the world.

Life expectancy: Its population at birth has a life expectancy of only 43 years, which is low even by the standards of the poorest nations.

Food: The average daily supply of calories per head is put at only about three quarters of the estimated requirement, and, by contrast, is only half that available in Libya.

Education: Only about 15 per cent of adults are literate, which is again among the lowest levels in the world.

Health: World Bank statistics show that there is only one doctor for every 47,000 members of the population.

Brief recent history: Having been part of French Equatorial Africa, Chad gained its independence in August 1960 with Nguire Tombalbaye as its first president. For four years after independence the three northern regions of Borkou, Ennedi and Tibesti remained under French military administration.

● In 1965 rebellion broke out following the imposition of an obligatory "national loan". Since then there have been few periods of peace.

● In 1973 Libya occupied the Aozou strip which is believed to contain deposits of uranium and manganese. In 1975 Tombalbaye was killed during a military coup.

● In 1980 civil war broke out. Despite efforts by the Organisation of African Unity to stabilize the situation, President Goukouni signed a treaty of friendship with Libya and this led to up to 10,000 Libyan and Islamic Legion forces entering Chad, and Hissene Habré, who had been challenging the government was defeated.

● In 1981 President Goukouni signed an agreement with Libya for a gradual merger of the two countries. This was never put into effect, but Libyan troops remained in Chad until the arrival of an OAU peace-keeping force.

Text: Rodney Cowton
Illustration: John Grimwade

THE WAR

Everything hangs on Gadafi

The present military position in Chad, as shown on the map, has come about after months of extremely fluid fighting.

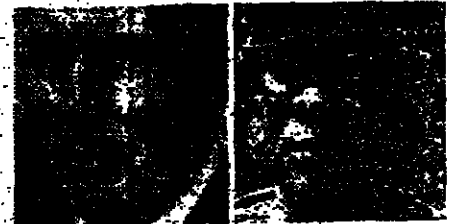
The story is seen in western military circles as being one of a forces of President Habré and of Goukouni Oueddei taking it in turns to over-reach themselves.

Accurate information about the fighting is scarce, but the pattern of events seems to have been that the forces of President Habré suffered a heavy defeat on about February 23 after attacking Goukouni on the fringe of the Aozou Strip, which he was intent on recovering from the Libyans.

This led to Habré's forces falling back over 400 miles to beyond Abéché, which was occupied by Goukouni's troops in early July. On July 10, Habré got behind Goukouni to recapture Oum Chalouba, and the next day, Abéché.

Goukouni then fell back on Faya-Largeau where he was driven out on July 30, only to recapture it on August 10 in a battle which was dominated by Libyan forces.

Now President Habré's forces, together with about 1,000 French paratroops, sent by President Mitterrand technically there as advisers, and also perhaps up to 2,700 soldiers from President Mobutu's Zaïre, have taken up defensive positions based on



Mitterrand Mobutu

Abéché, Salal, Moussoro and Mao. This may hold out the possibility of a stalemate, though much will turn on the policies of President Gadafi and his Libyan forces. An important factor in the fighting this month has been the bombing of Faya-Largeau and other centres of population (most of them merely collections of mud huts at oases) using Russian-built TU-22 Blinder bombers operating from Libya.

These bombers have operated under cover of fighters, such as the Russian SU-22 Fitter and the Mirage F-1, but in the absence of forward air bases, Salal and Abéché are at the extreme limit of the range of these fighters.

The question now is whether the Libyan forces will attack Salal and Abéché, which would be expected to bring them into conflict with the French paratroops for the first time.

The position seems to be that it is essentially a Libyan decision, for the forces of Goukouni are thought to have been worn out by the fighting since February.

Although the Libyan aid to Goukouni originally took the form of men of the irregular Pan-African or Islamic Legion, it is thought that up to 5,000 regular Libyan troops have been in Chad since early this month. There have been reports that the Libyans may have with them as many as 500 tanks, but in European capitals this is thought to be an over-estimate, with the actual number being probably nearer to 100.

Any Libyan advance south will have to be confined to the two roads through Salal and Abéché, because the intervening terrain is unsuitable for modern mechanized forces. For the defending government and French forces it will be a prime aim to hold the important road junction at Abéché.

South of Salal the road passes through the wadi-Bahr-el Ghazal which probably constitutes the best defensive feature available.

moreover... Miles Kington

Good news, there's been a disaster

Evelyn Waugh once complained that the standard of book reviewing was slipping badly. In my young days, he sighed, we never gave a bad review to a book we had not read; nowadays they are breaking even that simple little rule.

And Richard Ingrams, I am afraid to say, is now breaking that rule in the field of television, giving the thumbs down in the *Spectator* (my favourite weekly) to the conversation between John Stonehouse and Anthony Clare, even though he blithely admitted not having seen the programme. I did not see the programme either, so I am sure it was excellent, if a little inconclusive.

But Richard Ingrams promptly made amends by attacking the level of violence in

TV news, which seems to feed off pictures and reports of crashes, disasters, bloodbaths, corpses and drownings. I agree entirely. He objected to the violence; I object almost more to the unnewsworthiness of it. Sudden death is horribly important to those concerned – friends, relatives, neighbours – but horribly unimportant to the rest of us. If half a dozen people are swept to their death by an Irish wave, or burnt in a Paris dance hall, or killed in a Spanish coach crash, the only interest we can possibly have is a remote voyeuristic one. Yet such "news" items are regularly given the number two or three position on news programmes.

A few months ago I met a BBC cameraman who had been working in a regional centre and

been sent to cover a huge fire, of a factory, I believe. The pictures were dramatic and unusually detailed, he said. They had been offered to BBC news in London. Had anyone died? they wanted to know. No, came the answer. Not interested, said London. Another unwelcome development on the news is the increasing interest in filming mourning relatives at funerals – widows are great and children are even better. After a token shot of the coffin or casket, the camera zooms in on the suffering faces of the nearest and dearest and stays there implacably, as if to make amends for not being there when the victim himself died. Lovely stuff. But news?

I must admit that I am committing Ingrams's sin here.

I have not seen the programme concerned. In the last ten years I cannot recall having switched on the TV news more than three or four times, and I cannot believe that my life is any poorer for it; TV news seems to me to have all the impact of reading the headlines of a better class provincial evening paper. It does very little better than radio and a lot far worse, and none of my occasional dippings has made me change my mind. Still, we never get anywhere by moralistic sounding off, so I have a concrete suggestion to make. Instead of mixing up death and violence with the real news, why not give them their own regular programmes? Why not start a weekly or even daily feature called *Private Funeral*, for which BBC and ITV

cameras could film grief and distress to their heart's content, and to which those of us who love such things could turn without having to watch boring reports from Nicaragua and Chad? The real violence and disaster could easily be given an evening slot as well, perhaps in a feature called *Blood and Guts*, where the apparent public taste for carnage could be satisfied without anyone having to pretend it was "news". Here fuller treatment could be given to those disasters which the media love, especially coachloads of happy children who set out on a holiday and meet a terrible fate on a French motorway, where newspapers normally signal with the headline: "The Village that Died".

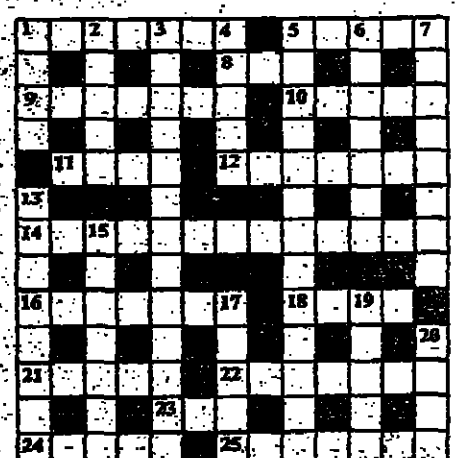
In fact – and I think this is a natural BBC idea – why not send a camera crew to go with a coachload of happy holiday-makers and arrange a spectacular crash to be filmed specially for television? This style of fictional documentary is becoming very popular, and it is about time we made a proper job of the disasters we love so much, instead of arriving there hours afterwards.

In some quarters this might be called bad taste. For my own part, I see it only as a natural development of current TV news. If paying people to die is bad taste, then it is not much worse than insisting we pay a licence to watch death on the news every night.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 129)

- ACROSS
1 Scoundrel (7)
5 Indian river (3)
6 Tavern (3)
9 Vital substance (7)
10 Pansy violet (3)
11 Adriatic wind (4)
12 Moslem veil (7)
14 Difficult phrase (13)
16 Quadrille (7)
18 Adjoin (4)
21 Fine setting (5)
22 Prominent (7)
23 Religious (3)
24 Attack (5)
25 Moving rhythmically (7)

- DOWN
1 Owl team (4)
2 Print from plate (5)
3 Appointments (13)
4 Dot (3)
5 Careful inquiry (15)
6 Entrance carpet (7)
7 Shickens (8)
13 High heel (6)
15 Confound (7)
17 Use up (5)
19 Wounds (5)
20 Men's party (4)



SOLUTION TO No 128
ACROSS: 1 Upkeep 5 Swift 8 Hum 9 Cinema 10 Aching 11 Rain 12 Template 13 Emblem 15 Pansies 17 Verminous 20 Even 22 Staple 23 Enemy 24 Pin 25 Fondle 26 Tester
DOWN: 2 Faint 3 Eternal 4 Phantom 5 Samarra 6 Rural 7 Fantastic 14 Maestro 15 Present 16 Unleash 18 Enraged 19 Crepe 21 Eagle
(Solution to No 129 on Monday) Recommended dictionary is the Collins New Concise

Rodney Cowton reports on the latest naval star at Dartmouth... a Wren

Down to the sea in skirts

Another bastion of male excellence and supremacy has fallen to John Knox's monstrous regiment.

At the Britannia Royal Naval College at Dartmouth, home of all that is best and brightest in naval tradition, a woman has for the first time carried off one of the top awards. At the end of July, Sarah Kahn, 23, alumna of Cheshire Girls' Grammar School and Durham University, emerged as top cadet in competition with about 80 men and 13 other women who were in their first term at Dartmouth.

She won the Rowallan Trophy, which is awarded to the officer under training who displays the greatest leadership potential in his or her first term. Not only that, but she clearly did it with style, for she also won the Pauline Doyle Trophy which is awarded to the officer cadet of the Women's Royal Naval Service "showing the greatest prowess in parade ground training without losing her femininity". By "prowess in parade ground training" is meant the sergeant-major role of commanding a squad at square-bashing.

For the WRNS cadets, their first term at Dartmouth is also their last. They tend to be a few years older than the men at the college, mainly either from university or after serving in the ranks. Whereas the men will complete up to three terms, the women take up their first postings in the Royal Navy proper after one term - though not at sea. That remains a male preserve.

Sarah Kahn has emerged not merely as Third Officer Kahn, WRNS, but also with the awesome power (as the Americans say) to request that Tower Bridge be opened and closed, and with the thought that if her request is not met, Her Majesty's Order of Admiralty may well want to know the reason why. For in her first posting, which she takes up in October, she becomes Assistant Naval Liaison Officer in London. In that role she will be responsible for looking after the arrangements for the 30 to 40 British and foreign naval ships which visit London every year. Among other

things this will mean ensuring that Tower Bridge is raised when one of these vessels needs to pass through.

Sarah Kahn is just one of a number of women making an impact in the services. On August 1 The Times recorded that Lieutenant Jan Harper had emerged at the top of a basically masculine course for young officers in the Corps of Royal Engineers. Nine months ago Group Captain Joan Hopkins was appointed as the first woman commander of an RAF operational station, with responsibility for the air defence of a third of the United Kingdom.

Earlier this year Squadron Leader Brenda Palmer became the first female Senior Air Traffic Control Officer at a major flying station, RAF Wittering in Cambridgeshire. Last Year Captain Marion Randall came top of an officer's course in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

In Second Lieutenant Sarah May, the Army has the first woman platoon commander of male Royal Army Ordnance Corps recruits undergoing basic training (square bashing again). At Portland in Dorset in the headquarters of the Flag Officer Sea Training, the operations room has an entirely female watchkeeping team, made up of four WRNS officers and four leading Wrens.

Meanwhile, back at base in Whitehall there is Second Officer Penny Melville-Brown, who in 1981 was the first WRNS officer to come top of the mixed junior staff course at the Royal Naval College at Greenwich.

Notwithstanding any impression that may be created by these examples, they are exceptions to the basic rule that the environment of the armed services is determined by male, with the RAF having perhaps achieved the greatest integration of women. Pregnancy remains a phenomenon which none of the services finds easy to accommodate.

An interesting test of the service's attitude to women could arise quite soon. At the top of their profession, as directors of the Women's Royal



Sarah Kahn: the latest woman to make an impact in the armed forces

Army Corps and the Women's Royal Air Force are Brigadier Helen Meechie and Air Commodore Helen Renton.

After one year as director, Brigadier Meechie is still only 45, and Air Commodore Renton is only 52 after more than three years in the post. Normally appointments at this level are not held for more than about three years, and these two officers are young enough to have

the possibility of one or more further appointments before they reach the retiring age of 55.

But they cannot go further in the women's branches. The question is whether the services will break new ground by offering them senior appointments outside the female confines. Whatever happens, traditionalists may take comfort from the fact that there remain obstacles to the rise of military women.

One happy family, isn't it, Sister?

COMMENT

You want an accident in Windsor, said the mini-cab driver by way of light conversation: have it between nine and five and reckon on surviving the trip to Slough. Time was, King Edward's would have seen you all right. Now it's falling apart. You're better off in Princess Margaret, he said. He takes them all home after Princess Margaret. Princess Margaret gives them a good time.

American Medical International Inc. of which the Princess Margaret Hospital, Windsor, is one of 10 British subsidiaries, is raking it in, and in 1982 showed a 55 per cent increase in net income, with suitably buoyant dividends for its shareholders. But let there be no misunderstanding. The Princess Margaret director is 29 years old, a tone poem in shades of grey who says "welcome to our little house on the prairie" and explains that he moved from accountancy to medicine because he prefers "the people angle to the numbers game".

No profit motives here. Absolutely not. They merely want to take the pressure off the National Health Service while providing each individual customer - or - patient with the best possible service - or - care and attention. Such imperative formalities out of the way, Sister says ahead to a jolly notice that says "No Smoking, lungs at work", and a wasp falls into the sweet sherry.

All very cosy. Understated as the many beiges of reception, soft-lit by myriad glass ceiling nipples against the harsh light of midday. A bentwood hatless hatstand, a set-piece of leafery and an early 1960s portrait of Princess Margaret herself who declared her namesake well and truly aloof in 1980.

One big happy family is the theme. None of your health service hierarchic separatism hereabouts; Christian names all round and you even get to speak to the consultants, who are all called mister.

So here is the path lab, and there the X-ray machine, and in here is a machine to take a picture of your baby in the womb, which makes a lovely gift for mums to start their albums with. And here is our pharmacy and there is a theatre and there is another theatre and here is the delivery room which explores some- thing very modern in the uterus, we are specially proud of our colposcope, and this is a room and that is its bathroom en suite with lavatory decontaminated and sealed to prevent cross-infections so safe in the public sector.

And in this beige folder you will find our 14-day cycle menus. Scampi mornay, fillet mignon, courgettes provencale, chicken bas-

quaise, that sort of fare. Good food aids recovery, is the idea.

Brand loyalty has spread to the patients. In room 214, Mrs Unwin presses a bedside button and her lacy torso rises magnificently to attention. "Wonderful!" she says, either of the electronics or her nearly healed abdomen. But we were all so upset when Mrs Thatcher took her eye round the corridor to the Princess Christian. We had a Miss Thatcher, though, in for some dentistry. Still, it was a shame. She would have loved it here.

Well, anybody would. The last time something went wrong with Mrs Unwin, before she went on the health insurance scheme, she found herself in a public ward with 60 other people and the whole place reminded her of a scene from a war disaster movie.

On the floor above, a tastefully tattooed young man takes over the commercial. He wishes it to be known that he is "very impressed".

It's not like they're doing a job, he explained, it's more like a service, like in an hotel. He'd had to wait six months to have his tonsils out on the NHS, and when he got in, there were no curtains at the windows and great lumps of plaster were hanging off the walls. Look, he says, what it all boils down to is I don't want to walk through corridors and have to see a lot of drips going in people. I don't want to mingle with the dying. It's depressing. Yeah, his wife said. It makes you feel sorry for them. Makes you feel you ought to go and put up pretty curtains for them.

The marketing director was especially pleased I'd met a milkman's wife on my rounds. It went to prove the Princess Margaret was not just for the idle rich. Three years ago only 7 per cent of Windsor possessed such prudence. Now, she said modestly, it had gone up to 14 per cent. However, there are beds lying empty in Princess Margaret, so much, much more marketing is required. Here is our physiotherapy department, we have a doctor in the house 24 hours a day, and over there's the delivery room and everywhere there are carpets, which is why it's all so quiet and peaceful.

Except for the hammering and banging out back. That's for an extension. You won't find too many of those in the public sector either.

Sally Vincent

On Monday

Monkey business in Spectrum

I've been left holding the baby

FIRST PERSON

"She combines motherhood with a successful career as a barrister". "She manages to combine her computer business with bringing up four children". "She manages to do the housework and occasionally visits friends as well as copes with two children". I will give a prize of one baby wipe to the person who guesses correctly which of the above descriptions fits me.

How do they do it? I was certainly a reasonably successful career girl before I married, but that all went out the window when my first son manifested his existence. My pregnancy was so horribly sickly that working in an office would have been impossible. I used to lie on the bed trying to focus on a single paragraph of a book for hours. When the baby arrived, my clear duty was to breast-feed him. Oh Well, thought I, with feeds every four hours there

will still be plenty of time for other things. My babies, however, are obsessive feeders. They feed practically for four hours at a time and carry on like that for months. I spent the first 16 months of my first child's life wearing clothes that buttoned down the front.

At 18 months my son started at a playgroup and I then spent three mornings a week sitting in a dusty church hall, drinking coffee and comparing my child with other grubby infants, trying to convince myself that he was more intelligent. When he was old enough to be left and, later, when he went to nursery school, I indulged in hectic, clock-watching shopping trips, dreading long queues at the supermarket.

When my son started at "big school" friends assumed that I

would have plenty of free time. It was a strange assumption. I had by then endured a miscarriage, another grisly pregnancy and the first few months of another lively son. Taking and collecting my older boy meant a daily round of assembling uniform and checking school bag before each expedition. There was simply no time for me to pursue a career even if I had wanted to. Within a few months my baby son will be going to a playgroup - if I can find the time to take him - and life will become even more hectic. After that, no doubt, there will be Cub Scouts or Boys' Brigade for the older boy and school for the younger.

I have come to the conclusion that the only way in which one can

combine a job and a young family is to have a mother or mother-in-law who is fit and capable and lives near by. Otherwise there is the possibility of employing a nanny or child minder. A nanny costs money and needs to be accommodated and somehow I have never wanted to entrust my offspring to a child-minder, however capable. I think I should worry myself silly, wondering whether they had climbed out of an upstairs window or gone home when the child-minder is looking uniform and trying to make sure the baby had had at least half a feed before each expedition. There was simply no time for me to pursue a career even if I had wanted to. Within a few months my baby son will be going to a playgroup - if I can find the time to take him - and life will become even more hectic. After that, no doubt, there will be Cub Scouts or Boys' Brigade for the older boy and school for the younger.

Margery Roberts

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Curing insomnia and the nightmares

of bathers become victims and need medical help.

An article in the British Medical Journal a couple of weeks ago suggested some remedies for the pain, though it was pointed out that even some strong pain killers are not always effective. Since then doctors have written to the journal about their own remedies. Cornish GPs seem to have the most experience of dealing with weaver fish stings and in the letters column this week hot water is put forward as the most popular remedy.

Running cost

The catalogue of illness and injury among athletes at last week's world championships in Helsinki has heightened fears that modern sportsman and women may be training too hard for their own good. American 100 metre hopeful Evelyn Ashford's tragic fall in the final, and Cuban Albeiro Juantoreno's broken ankle add more weight to the concept that the physical pounding athletes force their bodies to endure is now so great that muscle tears and stress fractures result.

Britain's Sebastian Coe didn't even make the games. He was stricken by a mystery virus. But, experts are now suggesting that his illness, too, may be the consequence of over training. Could it be that the stresses of training and competition depress the immune system, leaving athletes prone to infection?

Dr Lynn Fitzgerald, a research scientist in the department of immunology at St George's Hospital in London has been involved in one of the few studies of the effects of competitive sports on the immune system. She is herself a long distance runner and holds the women's world 100 mile, 100 km and 200 km records. With the help of medical colleagues she looked at the effect running had on herself and five fellow endurance runners.

Thankfully, she says, they found no dramatic deterioration in immune defences during a race. But she adds it appears that the runners were generally less resistant to disease during the training season. This could be explained by the extremely high levels of the stress hormone cortisol released by the athletes' bodies after a heavy training session or competition. Dr Fitzgerald, now hoped to make further studies.

Rabies relief

Viewers of the recent BBC TV drama The Mad Death (a fictional account of a rabies epidemic in Britain) may rest a little easier in the knowledge that a safe and effective vaccine for the deadly disease is available, though an outbreak here would still be catastrophic. The original rabies vaccine, produced from the nervous tissue of infected animals was usually only used to treat the disease. Paradoxically, impurities in the preparation meant that the vaccine

could also cause nerve damage though not to the devastating extent of rabies itself. Since then, however, the French vaccine manufacturers Institut Mérieux have perfected a way of growing rabies virus in human cells. Their vaccine can simply be injected into the arm because only small amounts are necessary and its lack of side effects means it can be used both as a prophylactic and treatment.

Travellers to areas of the world where rabies is rife, such as the Indian sub-continent, can ask their GPs to get a prophylactic course for them (two shots one month apart) from Servier of Slough - they supply Institut Mérieux's product here. A course costs around £36. British Airways also provides a rabies vaccination service.

Pool rash

A new disinfectant used in public swimming pools may be giving swimmers a nasty rash. Most public baths in Britain are chlorinated to keep them safe, but in recent years a few have started to use a brominated disinfectant. Skin experts say the product which has two brand names, Di-halo and Aquabrome, may cause eczema.

Dr Richard Kycroft, consultant dermatologist at St John's Hospital for Diseases of the Skin in London, and Dr Philip Penny, medical adviser to the Amateur Swimming Association, have seen 48 people who developed skin trouble after swimming in pools where Di-halo was used. Dr Kycroft has also received eight independent reports of similar problems from other dermatologists. And a survey of swimming magazine readers unearthed a further 65 people who developed "more than just trivial" rashes.

Olivia Timbs and Lorraine Fraser

THE TIMES Tomorrow

START THE WEEKEND WITH THE PAPER THAT INFORMS, STIMULATES, AMUSES AND PROVOKES

● DEATH BEHIND THE LINES: David Hewson on the secret courts martial of the First World War



● VILLAGE CRICKET: John Parker on the build-up to next week's final at Lord's

● TRAVEL: Journey of a Lifetime - Australia

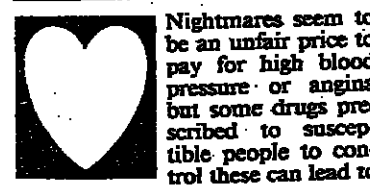
● SPORT: The golden sportsmen - preview of the European Athletics Cup Final at Crystal Palace

● FAMILY MONEY: How to finance your own business

● A chance to win a Ford Sierra XR 4i

Plus

All the news from home and abroad; Values - the shopping delights of Hampstead and Highgate; Drink on the virtues of mineral water; Review - video cassettes of the month; preview of the best of the Edinburgh Festival; the top gardening column; bridge and chess; critics' choice of what's on at the cinema and on the stage



Nightmares seem to be an unfair price to pay for high blood pressure or angina but some drugs prescribed to susceptible people to control these can lead to miserable, disturbed nights. Many doctors and patients have been aware for some years of this unpleasant side-effect of beta-blockers, as they are called, but recent work in Birmingham by Dr Tim Beis and Chris Alford have shown some surprising differences between two different groups of the drugs.

Working with 10 healthy young people they compared the effects of four different drugs - atenolol, propranolol, metoprolol and pindolol - on patterns of sleep. The last three, with chemical structures which give them an affinity to fats, tended to cause disturbed nights while the first one, with a different chemical structure, left little impression.

Beta-blockers are now prescribed for migraines and insomnia. It seems that propranolol and associated are more likely to be successful for these problems. The reason is linked with the nightmares: these drugs have an affinity to fats, they can more easily seep into the central nervous system (which is protected by a fatty layer) and so have a direct effect on the brain.

Buried danger

If you go down to the sea for the bank holiday weekend, beware the lesser weaver fish. Usually between four and five inches long, it half buries itself in sand. If you accidentally tread on one of its poisonous spines you will soon know about it.

The venom is not dangerous, but for some people the pain can be agonizing. Each summer hundreds

THE TIMES DIARY

Dash back

Jack Dash, the firebrand orator who led London dockers through many unofficial strikes, was in congenial surroundings this week, giving evidence against plans to redevelop the Free Trade Wharf site at Shadwell. The planning inquiry is being held in the lecture hall of the National Museum of Labour History, Limehouse, beneath dozens of banners bearing defiant slogans, once borne aloft by demonstrators. Dash supported the local protest group's complaint that the huge blocks of offices and flats planned would shut the river away from the people who worked on it. Dash, who worked 28 years in the docks, is now, at 75, a voluntary warden at an old people's home in Stepney.

Reeling on the isle

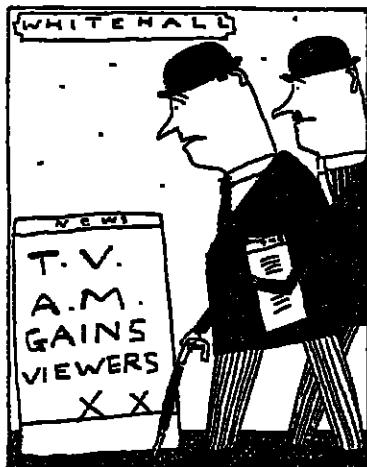
The Hebrides are agog to see who will partner Princess Margaret at the Skye Ball next month when she revives the claim of the Royal Hotel, Portree, to its title. The last leading royal to cut a caper there was Bonnie Prince Charlie, bidding Flora MacDonald farewell in 1746 after failing to dislodge Princess Margaret's ancestors. The Princess is officially in Skye to present the Queen's Award for Industry to Gailete, a canny technological outfit who put together transducers for heart pacemakers among the crofts.

Aping royalty

The royal family's enthusiasm for homeopathic remedies is shared by an even more closely knit group - a colony of American woolly monkeys at Leonard Williams's monkey sanctuary in Looe. Woolly monkeys are delicate, fastidious creatures who react badly to antibiotics and hate injections. Welda, who supply the sanctuary with homeopathic medicines, think its health record should impress the BMA committee inquiring into alternative medicine. You cannot, they say, pull the wool over a woolly monkey's eyes.

● Jeremy Holt, of London, writes in to ask whether the hot weather is getting to people. He has just had a letter dated "15 Augst."

BARRY FANTONI



"The Minister's terribly excited. They've asked him on with Roland Rat."

Hot and bothered

The current hot weather has revealed how little we British know about wine, and how little our restaurateurs care. At the Four Seasons restaurant in Islington I was served Sancerre rouge at hot room temperature. It tasted sick and sweaty. "I know it should be chilled," said the proprietress, "but our customers do not like it like that." At the Brasserie St. Quentin, Brompton Road, despite a very French ambience, a request to cool overwarm red wine was greeted with reluctance and Gallic smirks, and at 192, Kensington Park Road, a partner in the business came to argue the test about my demand that a gently cooking claret be plunged in an ice-bucket. The final straw came at Carrier's, in Islington. "We do not chill any of the red wines - not even the beaujolais", I was told by a waiter who, again, knew they should. Such things never happened at Hintonham Hall.

● A PHSpy noted a large party disembarking from a coach at the Salvation Army headquarters in Queen Victoria Street. On the back of the vehicle was the slogan: "You drink... We drive."

MOdicum

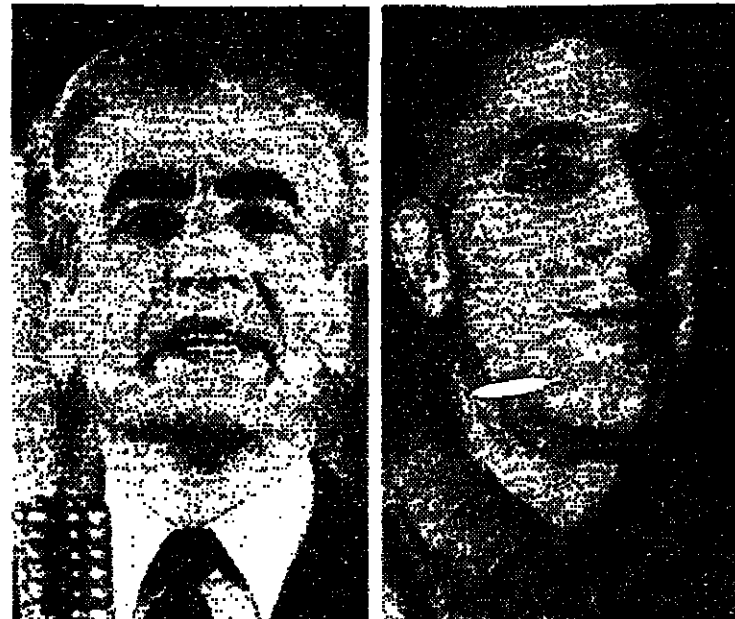
Chandrika Prasad Srivastava, secretary-general of the London-based International Maritime Organization, has an official black Dalmatian, with the registration 1 MO. The UN agency switched numbers last year, abandoning 1 MCO on changing its name from the Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization. On writing to the Department of Transport for permission, IMO found that 1 MO had never been registered before, so they did not have to buy it. Tony Hill, whose Elite Registration deals in fancy plates, says 1 MO would have been worth £5,000. If Chandrika Prasad Srivastava wanted 1 CPS, it would have cost him "about £3,200".

Not many of my readers count. This is a relief, since I can't either. Just two of you have written to point out that last Friday in this spot I called an octagon "six-sided". Robson Lowe, chairman of the philatelic sectioners at Christie's, was the kinder of the two about it. He tells me that 40 years ago his brother auctioneer described an Indian stamp as being cut sexagonally. Robson Lowe's retort was that the owner must have been a vet.

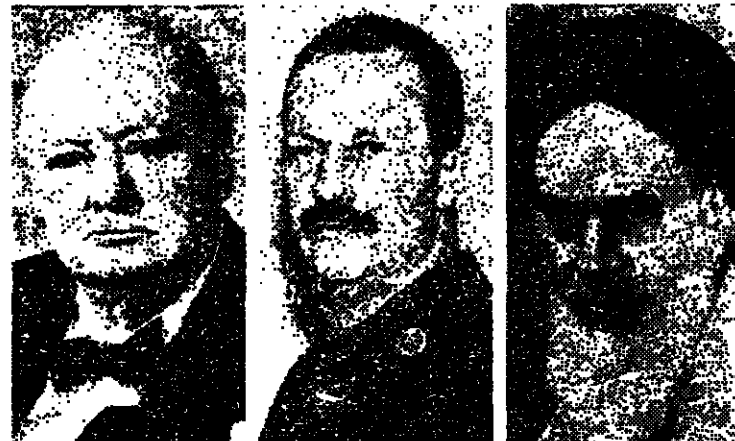
PHS

Edward Mortimer and Hazhir Teimourian on the coup in Iran 30 years ago today

From Mossadeq to Khomeini



The Shah, backed by Britain and the United States against Muhammad Mossadeq, right - and below, Churchill, the American agent Roosevelt, and the Ayatollah Khomeini



In Paris to form a united front, even royalists agreed that Mossadeq's should be the only picture hanging above the platform.

The man who insisted on this was Shapur Bakhtiar, whose premiership in January, 1979, marked a brief liberal interlude between the Shah and Khomeini. Bakhtiar, who was himself a junior minister in Mossadeq's last government, remains a staunch defender of the old man's memory. According to him, Mossadeq gave Iran "a lesson in democracy", was firmly committed to a constitutional monarchy rather than a republic, and never flirted with either the Soviet Union or the local communists.

Nor, Bakhtiar says, did he want "to throw the British out of Iran". He was willing to have a British manager for the oil company, keep on all British employees, and pay compensation for the British-built plant (though not for loss of profits). "It was Britain which showed itself

was easily filled by increased production elsewhere. Refusing to be browbeaten, Mossadeq rejected US attempts at mediation, but inside Iran, with no oil revenue coming in, the situation inevitably degenerated.

By July, 1953, Mossadeq was at odds not only with the Shah but also with the traditional middle class, represented by the bazaar and the main religious leaders, both groups that had originally supported him. To overcome opposition from parliament (the majority of whose members were landless, wealthy merchants or religious leaders) he resorted to a referendum without secret ballot.

The Times believed that this was the reason for the coup against him. ("The Shah, with his western education, is a warm supporter of parliamentary institutions.") But in fact the planning for it was well advanced before the referendum. The initiative had come from Britain, where Churchill was by then in power, but the CIA had to take charge. Britain, having broken diplomatic relations, could no longer get its people into Iran.

The new Republican Administration in Washington eagerly agreed, although with different motives. According to Roosevelt, "the British motive was simply to recover the AIOC oil concession. We were not concerned with that but with the obvious threat of Russian takeover."

That threat was not obvious to everyone. The Americans, then as now, were predisposed to see the hand of Moscow behind every move of both. They believed that Mossadeq, knowingly or otherwise, was playing into the hands of the Tudeh (communist) Party, which was closely aligned with Soviet interests.

It is true that the Tudeh grew stronger under Mossadeq's rule, and was allowed to carry on a strident campaign against the Shah and other powerful groups which were also opposed to Mossadeq. But when, after the first attempt at the coup had failed, Tudeh crowds poured into the streets, pulling down statues of the Shah, Mossadeq ordered the army to clear them out - thereby unwittingly facilitating the successful coup the following day.

If there was a communist danger it arose from the chaotic internal situation in the country, which itself was caused largely by difficulties arising from the oil boycott. As in Chile 20 years later - and, who knows, in Nicaragua tomorrow - the situation in which western countries felt obliged and entitled to intervene was one partly of their own making. The effect, while it may have encouraged Iran's economic development, was to distort its political development. In his determination to forestall another Mossadeq, the Shah prepared the ground for Khomeini.

George Walden

Reagan should go Russian

Sociology - once defined as "the science of behaviour" - has spread to foreign affairs. In international sociology, too, quasi-scientific jargon masks passionate partisanship. Instead of peer groups, we have nuclear equivalence, and countries are reduced to behavioural automata by doctrines of strategic determinism. Some international sociologists are of the adamant right, some of the hard left. In both cases, it is the human factor which is elided.

Take the arms reduction talks in Geneva. The arithmetic of the imbalance created by the Russians is persuasive. But there is a whole world above and beyond the nuclear facts of life. You do not have to be David Hume, or a philosopher at all, or particularly sceptical, to know that "facts" alone do not add up to much. Common sense tells us both that there can be no such thing as precise nuclear equivalence, and that there must be such a thing as a reliable sufficiency of weapons on either side.

We need a greater readiness to criticize pure military reason, and to illuminate the facts with a little historical imagination. May I therefore respectfully suggest that during the summer break President Reagan might lay aside for a moment his Intelligence digests and ask the CIA to procure for him instead good English translations of three Russian masterpieces? The prose alone would be an exquisite relief from Intelligence-speak, and there could be no better briefing for an American president.

The first is Turgenev's *A Sportsman's Sketches*, the book that reportedly persuaded Alexander II to free the serfs in 1861. It explains a lot about the Russians, old and new. Though many of them lived and were battered like cattle until about a century ago, they are a very human lot. (Comparisons with *Uncle Tom's Cabin* are irresistible, but misleading.) Until very recently indeed, most were peasants. The national character is suspicious, boorish and overbearing. Russians can also be sentimental, melancholy, brilliantly original and highly cultivated.

Gogol's *Dead Souls* portrays the more negative types, and is ideal further reading for any negotiator. Chichikov, the anti-hero, declines to continue a game of chess with the cheat and bully, Nozdryov. "I haven't been cheating," protests Nozdryov, "and you can't refuse to go on. You must finish the game... I'll make you play! You may have mixed up all the pieces and I'll remember all the moves. We'll put them back as they were... No sir, you tell me straight, are you going to play or not?" said Nozdryov, advancing still closer. (A parable of recent superpower relations?)

Peasants - yes, but as Turgenev shows, with a streak of poetry, too. Bullies - certainly, but also, in another guise, permanent subversives. The hero of Dostoyevsky's *Man from Underground* asks persist-

ently awkward questions (what if two and two make five?), is not inclined to listen to the answers, and distrusts any social or scientific structure at which "...one cannot put one's tongue or make a long nose at on the fly". The Soviet public still read all this in their millions, a fact the President might remember when he despairs of Muscovite officialdom.

After reading more about the Russians, the President might like to meet one, or see the country. The most prominent recent American visitor to Moscow have been an 11-year-old girl and a 91-year-old diplomat (Averell Harriman). During my own 20 years in diplomacy (spent mainly on communist affairs), I do not recall a moment when the East-West cultural gap has been greater. We badly need to put the whole of our relations in a wider and deeper perspective. They are the ones with the rigid, one-dimensional world view. We are supposed to have a broader vision.

The state of Soviet studies in America is not encouraging. Few of the next generation of American experts seem likely to bring George Kennan's depth of historical reflection to the issues. Few too will have strong views on them. Arid specialization and ideological intensity make a pernicious mixture.

I am not a faint-hearted European and I am not apologizing for Moscow. The point is not to melt the President's heart, or to pierce his political armour. Indeed in some areas closer acquaintance with *homo russicus* might lead one to take a tougher line. To get him out of Afghanistan, for example, you need not only some historical understanding of why he went there in the first place, but also to realize that there will be no negotiated withdrawal unless somebody sees to it that the resistance is properly armed. Nozdryov would understand that.

But we must differentiate. In Poland "the worse, the better" would be the wrong motto. Uncontrolled *pousserment* in Eastern Europe could be bad for both sides. We should think in national and historical, as well as ideological terms. Even a little peasant shrewdness could help.

Moralistic oratory and technocratic diplomacy are not enough. There is no substitute for statesmanship, and the demand for it is growing. Many sensible, conservative-minded people in the West are worried as much by its absence as by the nuclear numbers game - which itself reflects the failure of diplomacy. But they want leadership, not a crusade.

Harold Macmillan was not much of a nuclear expert, or ideologue. But he knew his history, and the Russians, and helped Kennedy to get the Test Ban Treaty signed just 20 years ago. He also found time to read Trollope at No 10.

The author is Conservative MP for Buckingham, and a former Private Secretary to Lord Carrington.

Philip Howard

All hands to harvest the happy memories

The harvest truly is plentiful this year, but the labourers are few. Now that British farming is so thoroughly mechanized, there is no unskilled work left on the harvest field for unskilled visitors to do. We used to stock until quite recently up here in darkest Ayrshire. Then come out the next morning to observe with chagrin that the wind from the Atlantic had blown all the stocks down, and then start again and put them all up again. Back adzes and hands sing with remembered shillies even to write it. Nostalgia, nostalgia. Where are the harvests of yesterday?

After a week or two of that game, we pitchforked the sheaves on to carts, put them all back again when they coupled, and rode in triumph on the top of the swaying load, back to the steading, and forked all the sheaves up again into the shed.

Even after the combines had penetrated the hill farms up here, there were still bales to load and unload. We sweated gravy as the stack grew towards the roof of the barn, but when things grew too hot the elevator could always be relied on to break down. Now the mechanical bale-grabbers have arrived, and vast bales shaped like swiss rolls that no human, however willing can lift by hand. "Dry August and warm both harvest no hay" rhymed Tom Tuses in *Five Hundred Points of Good Husbandry* in 1580. August is preternaturally warm and dry. The harvest looks quite good. But there is nothing that amateurs can do to help.

And now the polls even say that it is illegal for children to ride home on top of the loader bales, in the few farms that still build loads of old fashioned bales. There is an ancient pleasure gone.

Harvest home has been going on for a long time. And it is difficult not to feel that it has changed for the worse with the efficiency of mechanization, in the same way that it is difficult not to feel that the countryside has changed for the worse with the great prairies created by rooting out old hedges and ditches to accommodate the great machines. Your old harvest was the social and sociable event of the year, with the field full of helpers and spectators getting in the way, small boys with ambitious catapults waiting for the rabbits to make a break for it from the shrinking island of standing corn, old men reminiscing about heroic harvests of their youth, the professionals cutting by scythe and then binder drawn by horse or tractor and everyone else looking at the harvest paintings and

read the harvest poetry and memoirs to see there was a kind of joy in it.

The big machines have taken the backbone out of our culture, and they have also taken away the sense of communal triumph in getting a roaring harvest home. The drivers of the combines and the trucks wear earphones playing continual pop.

But let us not repine or blub about the good old harvest days, chaps. New country skills are replacing the vanishing arts of stooking and scything, and building loads and stacks that do not coup, and thatching. At the Dumfries and Lockerbie Agricultural Show last week, there was no sheath - crossing contest over a bar as in the pole vaults. But there was a large and popular class of tractor competitions in which the local boys drove monstrous machines around an obstacle course, picked up telegraph poles with their fork lifts as delicately as lesser men pick up chipolata sausages with a fork, backed between narrow gate posts, and deposited their loads without spilling a drop water from the milk churns balanced on their trailers. I made my excuses and did not have a go.

Farming will never be wholly mechanized as long as there are animals down on the farm. The new imported big breeds, the Limousins and Simmentals, and Charolais (famously called Charlies up here) made a noble show at Dumfries beside the local Galloways and Ayrshires. The hills are alive with the sound of bleating lambs for we have been spanning the flock, separating the lambs from their ewes and dipping the best ones primrose yellow for the markets.

Visiting townies overcome their modesty about lifting up the grotty tails of several hundred lambs to determine their sex: not always as obvious as you would imagine at that age. They call a rig (a male with only one testicle) a "chaser" up here, let his tail grow as a badge of distinction and keep him as an energetic curiosity to encourage the pups in their work. One falls into the dipping tank in over-enthusiasm and comes out yellow. The Nodding Hill Beagles are always in the way, and majestically cursed.

Who was it who said that you cannot make a man by standing a sheep on its hind legs but by standing a flock of sheep in that position you can make a crowd of men? Compared with the flock of silly tourists on the London Underground, the wild sheep of darkest Ayrshire are civilized and sedate and bright yellow.

Charles McKean looks at the architectural contest with a difference

How a city shaped up to a thug and an aristocrat

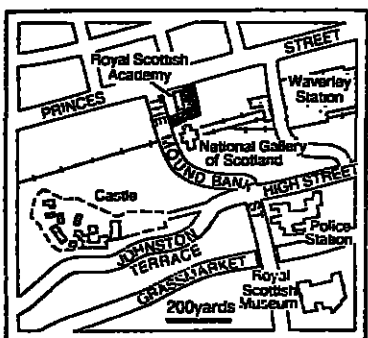
By any normal standards, the competition was a difficult one: the design of a major public meeting place in a setting of European importance - the Mound, in Edinburgh. Most design competitions for projects to be built are for buildings: rarely for the spaces between buildings. Indeed, for the last 100 years, the ancient importance of the public forum, amphitheatre or agora has been devalued to that grey and unspiced term "the public open space". Many competitors saw this contest as a way of redressing the balance.

The competition was for the transformation of the roadway that used to run alongside the Royal Scottish Academy (William Playfair, 1832) and thence between the RSA and the National Gallery of Scotland (Playfair, 1845). It had been determined that the road would be closed in any case; but the resulting discussions led to a realization that ever since the Quality quit the Old Town (with its traditional meeting place at the market cross) for the New Town (with no meeting place at all) Edinburgh had been without a focus.

This site could provide that focus, but not without difficulty. First, it is L-shaped: second, it is rigidly defined on one side by a boundary governed by an Act of Parliament; and third - and possibly most important - the site is entirely dominated by the two great art galleries, which are neo-classical monuments of world class; the RSA is a gigantic, muscular, Doric thug, whereas its neighbour, the National Gallery of Scotland, is a refined, feminine Edinburgh aristocrat. Both buildings are overlooked by the craggy wall of the Royal Mile, and in turn look down upon Princes Street and the New Town. These constraints leave little chance for creative innovation.

Furthermore, whether competitors decided to do nothing, or the minimum, or produce a major building, all had to be contained within the budget of £500,000, barely more than that required to pave the sloping site in stone: a critical point, since the most imaginative schemes were those which exploited the changes in level.

Those who decided to submit a major building proposal had then to determine whether they respected the existing character of the site, or whether they fought it. One entrant



Space race: the winning design for Edinburgh's Mound, the area near the Royal Scottish Academy and the National Gallery of Scotland.

expressed his dissatisfaction with the project by entering a live scheme: the site plan was returned with two galleries covered with uncooked pork chops, sausage and black puddings, with salad heaped between. The panel members, while holding their noses (for this was an early entry, and by the time the technical assessment panel had reached it, the food had matured) concluded that the entry proposed to pile 30ft of garbage over the entire site: as such, it did not meet the competition conditions.

Submissions fell into three main groups: those who simply offered a landscape design; those who used water, or those who produced major building structures. The winning entries were all in the first category, of which more later. However, a significant number used water on the site to soften its hard, rectangular and Calvinist outlines. Such entries included ideas for fountains, waterfalls, streams, locks, curling ponds, skating ponds, ornamental gardens and winter gardens. Most were beautifully presented, but none avoided the difficulties of future maintenance, clearance of rubbish, and whether or not the presence of water might inhibit the use of those spaces for other purposes.

However, the winning student entry - commended for its sheer panache - proposed a loch running along the entire side of the Royal Scottish Academy, satisfying the requirement for access to load and unload drawings into the gallery by a service rail!

The final group of entrants were those who proposed major building structures, ranging from reproduction Palladian villas, ruined

grottos, tents, gazebos, pergolas and high-tech metal structures to underground glazed-roofed shelters. The jury was convinced by none of these, since for the entire scheme to remain within the budget, such structures would have to be completed in cheap materials requiring significant future maintenance. In any case, the neo-neo classical buildings rarely matched the quality of the existing ones on site.

The sponsors of the competition, the Property Services Agency and Lothian Regional Council (who together own the land), wanted to ensure that all possible opposition to the winning proposal should, as far as possible, have been eliminated in advance. So they appointed the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland to act as agents to organize the competition, with the requirement that everybody with an interest in the site be consulted during the competition process, so as to avoid the possibility of the winner being opposed by the massed bands of classical conservationists. (The problems of the competition for the National Gallery extension in Trafalgar Square were very much in their minds.)

The method adopted was the organization of detailed technical assessment, before the jury meeting, the results of which were made available to the jury as guidance. The jury comprised Professor Sir Robert Grieve (former chairman of the Royal Fine Art Commission for Scotland), Professor Richard McCormack (architect), and Alistair Moffat (arts correspondent, Scottish Television, and former director of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe).

They were unanimous in their choice of the winning scheme by Allies and Morrison, of London (Allies trained at Edinburgh University). The design consists of a few simple ideas: the ground level at Princes Street is cleared up into the centre of the site, and paved in stone; then, to take account of the rising ground, there is a flight of steps up to a higher platform which runs between the Royal Scottish Academy and the National Gallery, which will be paved with granite setts. The eastern boundary of the site is determined by the Playfair steps, which, as a route, is now carried right down to Princes Street, ending up through a new, pedestrianized information kiosk.

Between this route and the lower square is space for a row of shops or booths, offering permanent accommodation for the current clutter of ice-cream vans etc. The scheme is austere and pure, yet it was Moffat's view that it offered a wide variety of opportunities for the performing arts and would be in great demand during the summer season.

All that remains now is for the promoters to take the scheme to the next stage, with a view to clearing outstanding permissions and beginning construction. Once built, it will no longer be difficult for people to name a meeting place when wishing to meet friends in Edinburgh: they will simply be able to say: "I'll meet you at the Mound".

*The Mound Competition Exhibition: Upper floor, Burtons, 81 Princes St, Edinburgh: Monday to Saturday 9 am - 5 pm, August 21 - September 10, 1983.



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

THE SOVIET CHALLENGE: II

A major fallacy in Western assessments of Soviet intentions is to assume that the Soviet leaders are basically similar to politicians in any country. In Western democracies politicians come and go; the electorate prefers pragmatic government which benefits citizens as individuals rather than the enforcement of ideological solutions for the good of the state. In the USSR continuity of leadership is all-important. The legitimacy of the regime has no firmer foundation than the seizure of power in 1917 by a minority party which promised a glorious future for mankind after world communism was attained - an "inevitable process" which the party nonetheless had a duty to accelerate.

Individual Soviet leaders have been denounced - some even murdered - by those who took power from them. But Lenin, his body preserved in the Mausoleum on which his successors review their forces, lives on as the main inspiration of Soviet foreign policy. Previous leaders may have made mistakes, but the party and the doctrine must be regarded as infallible or six decades of Soviet rule and all the sufferings of the masses building socialism will have been in vain. Even if they have personal doubts about the wisdom of spreading their political system by all the means at their disposal, the men in the Kremlin dare not give expression to their misgivings for fear of losing power to their rivals.

Continuity is particularly noticeable in Soviet foreign policy. The imperialism of the Russian tsars has given way to a Soviet empire expanding under the guise of bringing socialism to the workers of the world. This is one aspect of their predecessors' rule which new leaders have not condemned. The same Khrushchev who de-Stalinized and freed thousands of political prisoners preserved Stalin's conquests, crushing the Hungarian rising and executing Prime Minister Imre Nagy for "treason". When he backed down in the Cuban crisis of 1962 he lost his post. The same Brezhnev who in the heyday of detente drank champagne with President Nixon and kissed President Carter presided

over the suppression of the Prague Spring, expanded Soviet influence in Third World countries with the help of Cuban forces, and ordered the invasion of Afghanistan.

The Andropov who is portrayed by some as a liberal intellectual pursuing a defensive foreign policy was himself in Hungary helping to suppress the 1956 rising and as head of the KGB from 1967 played a central role in the Brezhnev strategies of internal repression and foreign expansion which continue today under his own leadership. The head of the Central Committee International Department, Boris Ponomarev, and the Foreign Minister, Andrei Gromyko, both have decades of experience, uninterrupted since they began their careers under Stalin.

The present Soviet leaders have caused too much misery to be described as good men; yet their misdeeds stem not from personal wickedness, but from their obedience to a system unrestrained by popular control, a system which has brought them honours and privileges. They are not the men to renounce the beliefs of a lifetime or to recant on their aims of achieving world communism under Moscow control. The younger careerists who hope to become the leaders of tomorrow provide the information and advice which conform to the Kremlin world view, not original ideas about reaching a peaceful compromise with the West.

It is not fully realised in the West that the Kremlin's unchanging and unquestioning hostility is not only directed at the negative side of life under capitalism but also at the positive freedoms and consumer delights which exercise such a dangerous fascination for those under communist rule. This is not the traditional threat of a hostile nation seeking self-aggrandisement, but the threat of a system which compels human beings to suppress their human qualities in the service of a political machine. Just as the democracies failed to believe that Hitler meant what he said until he proved it with Blitzkrieg and concentration camp, many now prefer to listen to what some smiling Soviet official tells

a Western journalist rather than believe the doctrine of the leaders themselves or the evidence of their own eyes.

They argue that Afghanistan was already a socialist country in the Soviet sphere of influence; that its people were very backward and will benefit from education in the USSR and other forms of fraternal help. They say that Nicaragua suffered under a brutal dictatorship and is better suited by Soviet-style socialist development than the evils of US economic exploitation. If Cuba too has political prisoners, they represent temporary sufferings on the path to a greater good. It is argued that one cannot make an omelette without breaking eggs. But the road to world communism is thick with broken eggshells and we have yet to see the first omelette.

The West cannot afford to wait for the next time Soviet strategists seize an opportunity to extend the "socialist community" - whether in Iran, Baluchistan, or elsewhere. A feeble reaction to the use of force is no deterrent to its use on another occasion. So far the West's response has generally been delayed, divided and ineffective, yet on the occasions in the past when governments have weighed the risks and opted for a firm stand, they succeeded in restraining the USSR. In 1946 after strong Western pressure Soviet troops withdrew from northern Iran, and the pseudo-autonomous Kurdish and Azerbaijani republics set up by Moscow collapsed. A firm line proved justified during the Berlin airlift of 1949 and the Cuban crisis of 1962. The West helped Tito counter Stalin's threat to Yugoslavia and more recently the promise of support encouraged Egypt and Somalia to reject the Soviet presence.

It is time to develop a coherent response to the Soviet challenge. Of course both sides must make every effort to scale down the monstrous weapons which threaten global destruction. But it is no less important to preserve those values of decency and freedom which further the best interests of people everywhere and in the long term hold most promise of a secure and productive peace.

Those of us who support this amendment wish to openly debate the issues it raises. In the absence of any word from Mr Steel himself, his "friends" would do well to join the debate, and to abstain from childish threats.

Yours sincerely,
COLIN DARRACOTT, Chairman,
London Region Liberal Party,
The Liberal Centre,
30 St James Road, SE16,
August 17.

Saving Mr Steel from his friends

From Mr Colin Darracott

Sir, Your report (August 17) that David Steel may resign the leadership of the Liberal Party if the constitutional amendment on control of the manifesto contents is passed by the Liberal Party Assembly quotes unnamed "friends" of his as evidence.

The media, and the party internally, have recently been awash with Mr Steel's "friends" and friends of Mr Steel's "friends" making allegations of this nature whenever these matters are discussed. They have preferred to take refuge in dark hints and veiled threats, rather than to honestly discuss the issues involved.

These issues, quite simply, are how a democratically-run party, the first to elect its leader by the votes of all members, shall arrive at the content of its manifesto. The effect of the amendment would give final authority to the standing committee of the party, of which the leader is a member.

Thus if the leader strongly disagrees with an item of party policy he would not be able to persuade the committee to omit it from a manifesto. If he could not, he would hardly be likely to be able to convince the electorate on the point. But he would have to argue his case, be heard to argue, and give his reasons. Thus the rest of the party, while perhaps not agreeing with him, would at least know why he had taken a position.

This is very different from the present case, where policy on, for example, animal welfare and cruise missiles has been brushed aside apparently by personal dictation.

It would also spread responsibility for the manifesto's content, and spread the range of party opinion which contributes to it. This year, all the discontent about the programme for the recent general election has fallen on Mr Steel. If the whole of an elected body were involved that responsibility would be spread, and the main debate could be on issues and not personalities.

Those of us who support this amendment wish to openly debate the issues it raises. In the absence of any word from Mr Steel himself, his "friends" would do well to join the debate, and to abstain from childish threats.

Yours sincerely,
COLIN DARRACOTT, Chairman,
London Region Liberal Party,
The Liberal Centre,
30 St James Road, SE16,
August 17.

Future of the Alliance

From Mr Peter Birkby

Sir, Philip Webster (article, August 10) seems to have been talking to people who see some sort of divergence between David Owen's views on candidate selection for the European elections and those of SDP members at grass roots level. This is an analysis not borne out by my own experience. I believe that joint selection would be in the interests of neither the SDP nor the Liberal Party.

With joint selection the vast majority of candidates selected would be Liberals, not necessarily because they were the best candidates, rather because they had the backing of people whose party loyalty had developed over years and decades. Liberals would tend to vote for Liberals far more than Social Democrats.

The two suggested methods of joint selection would have the same results. If all members were invited to a meeting, Liberals would outnumber Social Democrats by an average of three to one, and unless the SDP candidate was head and shoulders above the rest the result would be a foregone conclusion.

If an electoral college was set up, so that equal numbers voted from each party, the result would be the same, due to the relative strength of party loyalties.

Most Liberals, I believe, accept these arguments only too well. When factions of the Liberal Party like the Association of Liberal Councillors, which was once so hostile to the SDP, suddenly reverse their positions, they let the cat out of the bag.

Those Social Democrats who favour a quick merger also realize the implications, but are prepared to pay the price. The vast majority of Social Democrats, however, I believe will not be prepared to pay the price and will say so loud and clear at the council in September.

To project an Alliance which was nothing more than an extended Liberal Party could mean that we all suffer the same fate as the Liberal Party of 1979.

Yours sincerely,
PETER BIRKBY,
32 Park Grove,
Bradford 9,
West Yorkshire,
August 10.

Missing the point

From Squadron Leader R. G. Burr (Red)

Sir, An example of the type of notice referred to by Mr York in today's issue, (August 9) was an inscription which up until the formation of the NHS appeared chiselled into a stone band around a hospital on the edge of Clapham Common. It read: "The South London Hospital for Women Supported by Voluntary Contributions".

However, I noticed at some time after 1948, that the word "Women" had been removed and the word "for" had been extended by the addition of "merely", which saddened me somewhat.

Yours faithfully,
R. G. BURR,
7 The Slide,
Lamberhurst,
Kent,
August 9.

Doubts on new policy for the Rhine

From General Sir David Fraser

Sir, In your article, "Rethink on the Rhine" (August 17) you propose:

1. That the West German Army assume responsibility for the operational sector of Allied Command Central Europe now entrusted to the British Army.

2. That the British Corps in Northern Army Group should be "held as a tactical reserve" and should, in some way to be determined, be reduced in size.

3. That Headquarters, British Army of the Rhine, should be abolished "with further savings in headquarters costs", at least I think that is what you propose, in your reference to "no one-over-one relationship between HQ BAOR and HQ First British Corps", although since you link this point to the likely loss (under your policy) by Britain of the Northern Army Group Command - a completely different issue - the line of reasoning is unclear.

I believe the advantages you suggest for this sort of policy are illusory, while the difficulties are very real. You have referred to some of the latter but, I suggest, greatly underestimated them. To take a few headings:

Financial: You base your suggestions upon the need for savings. I doubt if you would achieve them. There would, under any version of your plan, have to be large-scale relocation of troops - presumably British and certainly German. The cost of this is likely to be immense, and it is a presumption of your proposition that Germany bear a larger part of this cost. But, leaving aside the dubious question of persuading the Federal Republic to your point of view, the cost to the British Defence budget would also be huge. I very much doubt if these capital costs could be balanced by any imaginary savings from a reduction in size of 1 (British) Corps.

Strategic: You refer to there being "no operational logic in the strategy of forward defence in West Germany, which is persisted with for political reasons, and you talk of the 'tactical rigidities' imposed on Nato's military thinking by the forward defence strategy", and of the British Army "guarding every forward inch of a sixty-three kilometre front". If it really did so, it does not seem an immense price to pay for peace in Europe, but does *The Times* seriously believe that the West German population could be persuaded to pay for a defence

policy which did not assume forward defence of its territory?

Does *The Times* seriously contend that any Western European nation - or coalition - has the ability to trade space for time, and base its declared strategy thereon? Or that Nato could live with a military strategy so patently at odds with its political objectives? The "tactical rigidities" - and they are not as rigid as you suggest - are political realities. Of course they produce problems, but the problems are not insuperable.

Political: You argue the advantages of West Germany assuming a stronger military role. I believe you entirely underestimate the difficulties of this - not least in Germany itself. Why do you suggest to your readers that the West German contribution is not already very strong? The Bundeswehr has four powerful Army Corps, a very large reserve, and - when I last compared the figures - more tanks than the German Army which invaded Russia in June 1941. Talk of a "junior partner" (in terms of land forces, at least) is misleading.

Space prevents comment on the administrative implications of your proposals, but suffice it to say that all the national and logistic responsibilities of HQ BAOR could not possibly be discharged by the staff of a forward Corps.

Finally, may I say that my own experience of Nato convinces me that any proposals on the lines you suggest would be regarded with astonished concern within the Alliance. The British Army of the Rhine - with much of it in the forward areas - is exactly that "evidence of commitment" without which no Continental alliance could endure, and no British participation be respected. You make much of "operational burden sharing", and in that connexion say that the British contribution should be concentrated in the maritime area. I agree - and it is. Virtually the entire Royal Navy is assigned to Nato - by far the largest European navy, and rightly so. Our contribution on land - one Corps of regular troops, from a nation of over sixty million people - is, believe me, not regarded by our allies as overwhelming in terms of size, but it is regarded as extremely important.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID FRASER,
Vallders,
Isington,
Alton, Hampshire,
August 17.

Buildings on the list

From Mr Richard J. Griffith

Sir, The remit of the new Historic Buildings Commission is wider than your editorial (August 11) suggests. Its principal task is "to secure the preservation of ancient monuments and historic buildings situated in England".

The 400 buildings directly in its care are only the tip of the iceberg; even if one added all grade 1 listed buildings they would together amount to fewer than 6,000 properties, or barely 2 per cent of all buildings over which there is statutory "heritage" control. That total is about 283,000 buildings and will soon be substantially increased by the survey now in progress. The commission can advise the Secretary of State on the administration of all these protected buildings.

Surprisingly there is no statistical information concerning how listed buildings are being administered. Hundreds of millions of pounds of building works are subject to listed building control each year, yet neither central nor local government keeps a register of the results of that control. Without accurate and up to date information on what the control is achieving its administration can hardly avoid being arbitrary and capricious; nor can rational policies or strategies be effectively developed and pursued.

The new commissioners might therefore consider recommending to the Secretary of State the establishment of such a register as a modest and welcome administrative reform.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD J. GRIFFITH,
5 The Circus,
Bath, Avon.

Saving youth hostels

From Councillor L. J. F. Preddy

Sir, It is one of the present day ironies that in an age of increasing leisure time available, especially to young people, the Youth Hostels Association should be recording a decline in membership and overnight stays. This has reached the point where remote hostels are no longer economic and may have to be closed.

Whilst Youth Training Scheme labour can continue to be used for the maintenance of these hostels, more importantly the Government should be encouraged to introduce a scheme providing for the issue of vouchers to young people who

take part in the Youth Training Scheme for substantial reductions in the costs of overnight stays at hostels.

This could be introduced on either an individual or a team basis as part of a reward system. No doubt British Rail with their more flexible marketing policy could be associated with the scheme to provide reduced rate rail travel.

The primary objectives of the Youth Training Scheme would, therefore, be extended on a wider basis with wider benefits.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN PREDDY, Deputy Leader,
East Sussex County Council,
12/14 Broad Street,
Seaford, East Sussex.

Body and mind

From Dr Thomas Price

Sir, Your editorial of August 10 takes the medical profession to task for its alleged over-emphasis on high technology, high cost medicine.

Few doctors would dispute that the indiscriminate prescription of powerful and expensive drugs is an unsatisfactory practice. The alternative however is to utilise that even more costly and scarce resource - time.

We should all welcome the opportunity to spend more time with our patients but this may not be possible where revenue cuts and delays in appointing replacement staff have led to ever increasing waiting lists.

In the field of rheumatology,

chronic disease is the rule rather than the exception and time spent explaining the nature of their condition to patients is worth a thousand pills. There are still, however, sixty districts in this country which have no rheumatologist and around ten million people therefore who are denied the accurate diagnosis and skilled treatment that their ailments demand.

Your criticism should rather be directed at Government policies. Repeated cuts in expenditure are continuing to deny too many citizens the care and attention they deserve.

Yours faithfully,
THOMAS PRICE,
38 Flanders Road, W4,
August 12.

Engineering awards

From Dr G. B. R. Feilden, FRS

Sir, On behalf of the Fellowship of Engineering and the Commissioners of the 1851 Exhibition, I am preparing as comprehensive a list as possible of United Kingdom engineering awards. This will include medals, sponsorships, scholarships and exhibitions, studentships and fellowships, and prizes in every branch of engineering and related technologies.

The list will be published by the Fellowship as an indexed reference book in the autumn.

The list will contain the replies we have had from schools, colleges, universities, polytechnics, institutions and charitable trusts, as well as those from many firms manufacturing engineering products.

The sponsors of the list believe that it will fulfil a need in informing both those who are already in the engineering profession and those

contemplating entering it, of the immense range of awards which exist.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT FEILDEN,
Greys End,
Rotherfield Greys,
Henley-on-Thames,
Oxfordshire,
August 9.

One swallow

From Mr David Lilley

Sir, "My father was so enchanted with it that he shot it" (August 10). What is one to make of this extraordinary statement - and of the fact itself which deprived the bird of its life and the world at large of a "rare and lovely creature"? *Crime passionnel* or murder most foul?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID LILLEY,
49 Blake Road,
Bicester, Oxfordshire.

Risks in new bread rules

From Dr Walter Yellowlees and others

Sir, We write to draw attention to the proposed new flour and bread regulations, particularly to the following two points:

1. Around 1935 the deficiencies of white flour were recognized. Regulations were passed making it mandatory to put back certain of the vital nutrients extracted during milling, eg, iron, calcium, thiamine and nicotinic acid. It is now proposed to abandon this requirement.

Either the Government was wrong then or it is wrong now. White bread is a staple of the poor. If the Government interferes with the nutritive value of the white loaf, it should be warned of the risk it takes with the health of the poor and elderly sections of the population.

It is known that the thiamine requirement is directly related to the carbohydrate intake. Vitamin B1 is needed to cope with starch. David Lunnham, a biochemist who has worked with the Department of Health, has said that 85 per cent of the elderly population will probably have a lower intake of thiamine than the DHSS recommended intake if thiamine is not replaced.

Doyle and Crawford have said that 62 per cent of the mothers in families they are investigating in Hackney will be at risk if thiamine is not replaced.

2. The proposed new regulations will allow bakers to manufacture a wholemeal loaf to which they have added the emulsifiers, oxidants, stabilizers, etc, at present allowed in the manufacture of white bread. By long tradition, and indeed by law, wholemeal bread has consisted of the ground-up wheat berry, yeast, salt and a little oil or fat, with caramel permitted.

If the large plant bakers now wish to cash in on the fashion for wholemeal bread, by all means let them, additives and all. Far better people eat wholemeal bread with additives than white bread with additives. But they must not be allowed to call it "wholemeal". The public must be able to distinguish between a loaf which contains additives and one which does not.

The old bakers' term "wheatmeal" is due to be abolished under the new regulations. Why not present it to the plant bakers as a name for their new loaf? "Wheatmeal" for a wholemeal loaf with permitted additives, "Wholemeal" for the traditional wholemeal and nothing but the wholemeal?

The McCarrison Society is disquieted by the new proposals for two reasons: (1) the Ministry's manifest failure to recognize that the purpose of food is nutrition and that a staple food has a pivotal place in the building of healthy bodies; and (2) the unobtrusive way in which these proposals have been put forward, with opinion from the trade invited, but with no information at all issued by the Ministry to the public - who are, after all, those mainly concerned.

Yours faithfully,
WALTER YELLOWLEES,
President,
ANDREW STRIGNER, Chairman,
KENNETH BARNWELL, Editor,
The McCarrison Society,
76 Harley Street, W1,
August 3.

Cut in arts support

From Mr Denis Mahon, FBA

Sir, Mrs Rupert Hambro justifiably argues (August 11) that in the present circumstances of stringency more should be done to enlist financial support for the arts from the private sector and points out that mere recommendations from the Government to this end fail to meet the case.

There were only two sentences relating to future arts policy in the Conservative manifesto issued in May. They were: "We shall keep up the level of Government support, including a fair share for the regions. We shall also examine ways of using the tax system to encourage further growth in private support for the arts and the heritage." Leaving aside any comments on the ways in which the first commitment might be reconciled with events during July, it is evident to many that the second commitment becomes all the more crucial just because of those events.

Unless something is actually achieved in the way of further fiscal incentives, exhortations are unlikely to prove really effective. But provided that genuine progress in this regard is seen to be made, then Mrs Hambro's suggestion of a "well-conceived public relations campaign" would become extremely pertinent.

There have been certain indications that the new Arts Minister may have been thinking seriously along these lines. Many will hope that in the autumn he will do battle for, and deliver, the necessary prerequisites for a constructive policy designed to win from private sources much greater support in the future for the arts and the heritage.

Yours faithfully,
DENIS MAHON,
33 Cadogan Square, SW1,
August 11.

Luis Buñuel

From Professor Douglas Johnson

Sir, Father D. C. Barrett discusses the effect on the late Luis Buñuel of his Jesuit education (August 12).

Perhaps an indication is to be found in his often-repeated remark: "I am an atheist, thanks be to God".

Yours truly,
DOUGLAS JOHNSON,
4 Rue de la Cité,
35400 Saint Servan-sur-mer,
France,
August 14.

FIVE-YEAR RAILWAY TIMETABLE

Few commercial organizations of any size could have kept to a five year plan drawn up in 1978, nor would many care to publish such detailed plans now. Yet British Rail, as a state industry, was forced into this somewhat academic performance again yesterday. Its past efforts, as the Comptroller and Auditor General has pointed out, have made its commuter timetables seem a model of accuracy by comparison, not least because of the recession and strikes. It is just as hard for railway managers to monitor their complex and inter-linked mix of social and commercial businesses as it is for the Department of Transport.

Today British Rail is committed to forecasts for the year 1988, when it does not even know who will be its chairman next month, nor whether the government will approve important projects for main line electrification, let alone what schemes Whitehall advisers have in store for railway organization or for introducing private capital.

Under such conditions of uncertainty, it is hardly surprising that the Corporate Plan 1983-88 is little more than a discussion document and a

modest one at that. A further 17,000 jobs will go and labour productivity will rise by just 7 per cent. Of the two largest divisions required to run on commercial terms, freight is expected to meet its target but inter-city services on the other hand will only break even, though British Rail hopes that a study now under way will find the missing profits.

This package, while hardly dramatic, is both logical and credible. British Rail has made substantial strides recently in getting to grips with its problems and re-organizing its structure so as to give its managers realistic financial and operating targets. The Corporate Plan adds to this new realism by concentrating on cost savings without exaggerated hopes about an upturn in business.

There is still a lingering feeling at the back of many minds that the railways could do without massive subsidies if only they were run efficiently or that there is some magic way of transforming railway finances in much the same way as duty-free sales pay for the losses incurred in running airports. Real planning can only begin when it is acknowledged

that large parts of railways are uneconomic but essential to a pattern of living created over past decades.

Tight control of subsidies and the external financing limit remains the prime method of keeping pressure on British Rail to improve its efficiency. Subsidies should be as specific and detailed as possible. But there is also a strong case for experiments to introduce private capital and in particular some element of competition where possible to act as a monitor for British Rail's performance on finance and services and to help provide investment.

Important strategic changes, such as splitting off parts of the system or separating track from operations should certainly be considered. Private enterprise could help a more imaginative approach to property development on stations. If possible private concerns should be encouraged to run separable commercial lines, such as the new Victoria to Gatwick line and even to tender for subsidized routes. But such moves should concentrate on improving rather than sniping at the railway system.

CONGRESSMEN ON THE FALLS ROAD

American politicians have been playing Irish politics since the days of the great famine. Mostly they play at home. For the last few weeks they have been playing away in the fortified stadium of Belfast. The local reception has been decidedly mixed.

First there was the Noraid tour of anniversary disturbances, enjoyable even to being participatory. That was followed by the appearance of three Congressmen, variously interested in job discrimination against Roman Catholics. Their stated purpose was fact-finding with contingent threats - to fine the parents of American subsidiaries in Ulster, or to block a U.S. contract with Short Brothers for the supply of aircraft. The quality of the investigation may be gauged from the person of the principal investigator, Father Sean McManus of the Irish National Caucus, an inveterate opponent of the preservation of Ulster's British identity, and the American of all Americans with whom the tender objectivity of an Irish fact would be least safe.

It would be surprising indeed if the imprint of religious and political discrimination were not

to be found on the pattern of employment in Northern Ireland. There is a long and well evidenced history of it. A tendency to de facto segregation in housing has been reinforced in recent years by naked fear in some urban areas. And there is in progress in that society something resembling a suppressed civil war.

The surprising thing is not that active discrimination may be found but that there is not more of it. Up and down the province Protestants and Catholics work side by side, even in the sad tale of the meat factory at Moy. The Catholics in the workforce would not work if the Union Jack was flown. The Protestants would not work if it was taken down. The factory could not operate without the cooperation of both, so the management shut it down. What could be less discriminatory than that?

The Fair Employment (Northern Ireland) Act of 1976 is a far-reaching statute to make unlawful every kind of religious or political discrimination in employment. The Americans have good experience of the efficacy of such enactments. Congressmen

will know that they are an earnest of intention on the part of the political authorities; that they have some exemplary and educational effect; that they are powerless instantly to eradicate stubborn ways or instantly transform disparities into parties; and that to bite they need the tooth of enforcement.

Northern Ireland's Fair Employment Agency has reasonable powers of propagation, investigation of complaints, conciliation and ultimately enforcement through the courts. It also issues "equal opportunity" certificates to employers who satisfy its requirements, and the British government looks for the certificate in examining tenders for government contracts. Short Brothers have an agreement with the agency to take positive steps to encourage applications for vacancies by Roman Catholics (a result not easy to achieve in a factory sited in the heart of Protestant East Belfast). Fair-minded American legislators and executives should have no difficulty in concluding that, if the aeroplane's specifications, price and delivery are right, the labour practices that produced it need not be held against it.

THE ARTS

Television
Preparing
for real

Flight sergeants, like all sergeants, are well known for versatility, and might confide that without them the officer corps could well not survive. Flt Sgt Harry Parkinson, for instance, simulating the plight of a pilot trying to escape in hostile territory in BBC1's *Tomorrow's World* at Large last night, was required to display a histrionic talent and did so in a manner that might have made any watching producer sit up.

The pilot audience enjoyed it. This was the first week of their combat survival course at RAF Mountbatten, Plymouth, the classroom stage. Flt Sgt Parkinson had obviously done it all before and he was good value.

His pupils had little to laugh about in their second week, cast out on Dartmoor with minimal rations, dinghies and parachutes, making their own backpacks, learning to snare and kill game, hungry, wet and wretched. Even in peacetime, apparently, a fast-jet pilot can expect to eject once; in wartime, obviously, the odds increase. At Plymouth they prepare them for the real thing in hostile circumstances.

Tomorrow's World's Peter Macann went along for the programme's first week and was half of one of the seven teams. He found it "tough, very tough" and he did not have to complete it. After the part where they had taken cover to attempt to evade the hunter packs of Royal Marines, he had to withdraw, reprimed by the Official Secrets Act which required the next part of the proceedings, the interrogation, to be off-screen.

Briefing the Marines, the course C.O. cautioned against overrealism. The pilots, he said, were "rather expensive beasts". It cost about £2m to train a Jaguar pilot these days and he would like them back flying as soon as possible. The Marines got on with it, flushing most of the fugitives, plopping them face down in the earth, kicking their legs apart and blindfolding them. If the Marines were on their best behaviour, their subjects may not have thought so.

All the pilots, successful in evasion or not, were taken off for the interrogation which was, apparently, realistic enough for some to cry, others to ask to withdraw and some to be withdrawn on medical grounds.

Without all that, Peter Macann lost a stone. What the others gained or lost in this game, no less grim for the service jokers, we are not to know. I hope they are still glad they volunteered.

Dennis Hackett

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Ponyboy (C. Thomas Howell, left) lays plans with fellow greasers Steve (Tom Cruise) and Two-Bit (Emilio Estevez) in *The Outsiders*

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WarGames (PG)
Odeon, Leicester Square

It will not be at all fashionable to admire Francis Ford Coppola's newest film, *The Outsiders*, because it is not a fashionable film. Its style originates in film-making traditions from the distant past of movie history. Its method is to work upon the sentiments, and that is something that has been out of favour with British audiences for a long time. The new audiences like to feel the effects of film in their viscera, not in their tear-ducts. But, if they are to be touched, then they want it done with a convincing impression of realism. If they catch themselves allowing their sentiments to be affected by some evident artifice, they are resentful of the manipulation.

In the end, of course, artifice is the nature of art, and all its effects upon us are a kind of manipulation; and there is nothing inherent in those effects that demeans either the artist or the audience. On the contrary, if we do not feel the least welling of a tear at *The Outsiders*, or a good *Bohème* or *Madame X* or *The Kid* or *All Quiet on the Western Front* or *A Star is Born*, there is a lack in us. If we do, it is certainly nothing shameful or unhealthy. *E.T.* was a great corrective, because it became a matter of pride to have cried at *E.T.*; and that did something to shake the locks on imprisoned British sentiment. Not sufficiently, I guess, to gain acceptance for the sentimental purposes of *The Outsiders*.

The film is based on a 1966 best-seller in the American "young adult" market, written by S. E. Hinton. The gentlest signature belonged to a young woman who set out to write a novel about her despair at the senselessness of the ritual warfare waged by the young males she met in school days in the early Sixties. The

story gives the film a superficial resemblance to *Rebel Without a Cause* and the teenage films that followed it, but the comparison is misleading. Those films tried to give their characters some sort of social context. They were fighting a society in which they felt themselves outsiders, but still wanted a place. There was a conflict between the generations, a natural rebellion of the young against parents and against authority.

In Coppola's film society at large is not hostile to Ponyboy (C. Thomas Howell) and Johnny (Ralph Macchio); for the most part it is content just not to know they are there. Their misfortunes are their parents' - dead in Johnny's case, callously indifferent in Johnny's. Coppola wants to show more elemental conflicts than in Nicholas Ray's film, in the feuding between the Greasers, from the wrong side of the tracks, and the Socs, boys from the affluent middle class, and between the boys' innate good nature and good sense and the aggressiveness demanded of them by the group-instinct of the pack.

"I wanted to take those young street rats", says Coppola, "and give them heroic proportions." He achieves this - steeped in film lore as he is - by returning to the heroic era of the cinema. He imbues his film with the fatalism of *You Only Live Once* or *They Live by Night* or the French realist-romantics of the late Thirties. His images - the utterly fearless sentiment of silhouettes against red sunsets, or sunlit reflections on water - belong to the silent screen. So does such a scene as the death of the boys' crazy friend Dallas, caught and gunned down in the headlights of the pursuit cars that circle him. Carmine Coppola's music is used like a silent film score to supercharge each dramatic moment. The emotions of the characters are unabashed, and the dialogue is unrestrained by naturalism. At times it recalls the bare poetic ellipses of *All Quiet*.

If you are only prepared to yield to this long-unaccustomed appeal to sentiment, it works, enthralling, so that at the end you are fully prepared to accept, and to be touched by, the dying Johnny's exhortation to his friend Ponyboy to "stay gold" - gold being the

innocence and responsiveness of childhood, of which some vestige has still remained in these two. Coppola has set out to recreate the experience of an age when movies and their audiences were younger, and the combination of the story, the images, the music and the words carried them off into new regions of imagination and sentiment. For this unfashionable spectator, he succeeds.

The message of *WarGames* is very much the same as that of *The Outsiders*. The principal character in the film is a computer in the United States Combined Operations Center with a facility for learning from its own mistakes, and mastery of a variety of games including Thermo-Nuclear War. At the climax of the film it has taken matters into its own hands and is about to annihilate the Soviet Union. The catastrophe is ingeniously averted by setting the computer to compete with itself at noughts and crosses. This pulls the creature up short with the puzzling discovery: "A strange game: the only way to win is not to play."

It is a useful moral for a nuclear age; and the enormous box-office attraction of the film shows that it is a very popular one among the threatened masses. *WarGames* to an extent is able to hide its own sentimentality behind the great mass of electronic machinery which, rather more comprehensively demonstrated here than in, say, *Tron*, is as intriguing to older generations as to the computer-age young.

The hero is a lad who does not make very good grades at school, yet is a wizard with his home electronic gadgetry (he has even bugged the school computer so that he can improve his grades). One day he accidentally links into the operations room computer, and playfully punches in fictitious information about a Soviet attack on Seattle and Las Vegas. The boy is hailed in by the FBI, and the Third World War is on its way when the youngster saves the day by teaching the old dog its instructive new trick.

It is a fable of exemplary simplicity, related with verve and suspense under John Badham's direction. Essentially a children's story - which accounts for its logic and good sense - it clearly has a very broad audience appeal: to prove it,

the book of the film is available in both Penguin and Puffin (respectively £1.30 and £1.25, though the editions are identical apart from the pictures on the covers).

The National Film Theatre recently took a poll among members of the British Film Institute to discover their 30 favourite films, and these have now been programmed into a season which will begin on September 3. The members, God bless them, have presented themselves with a selection of films which is awfully nice, predictable and unadventurous. There are a couple of good Renoirs, *La Grande Illusion* and *La Règle du jeu*, a good Ford (*The Grapes of Wrath*) and an overblown one (*The Searchers*); but after that the choice is disappointingly middle-of-the-road, middle-class, middle-brow and bland. It is the kind of programme that circulates endlessly round the repertory cinemas.

There are no films made to tease and disturb and stir, no Buñuel, no Pasolini, no Anderson. There are no films before 1935, and no silent films at all: NFT patrons - despite the theatre's years of work - have no historical perspective. There is no Eisenstein, no Griffith, no Chaplin, no Stroheim, no Clair, no Lang, no Sternberg, no Vigo, no Jennings, no Dovzhenko, Mizoguchi, Fellini, Pudovkin, Satyajit Ray, not even W. C. Fields or the Marx Brothers. At the top of the list is *Casablanca*, a lucky strike of the journeyman Michael Curtiz. In second place comes *Les Enfants du paradis*, in third *Citizen Kane*. After that the preference is for musicals and colourful spectacle. There is nothing wrong in themselves with the films in the season; but the selection and the omissions give pause.

It is rather as if a similar poll on great literature were to reach back no further than Edgar Wallace, and even then leave out Joyce and Eliot. In such a case we might worry about the state of the national culture; and this pleasant list of films must make the British Film Institute, who are just now celebrating 50 years of trying to build a film culture, wonder if the effort has been worthwhile.

David Robinson

Theatre
Taste of America

Agnes of God
Greenwich

Parthenogenesis is good box-office. I am sure. But the playwright John Fielmeier has taken no chances and filled out his study of a young novice's mysterious conception and infanticide with psychoanalysis, domineering mothers, smoking problems, girls obsessed with being overweight or unattractive ("I left the Church because I had freckles"), a singing nun, menstruation and every other interest of the New York theatregoing public, for whom the Roman Catholic Church is potentially enough by itself.

In London, his play seems a strange specimen indeed, even in a serious production by Frank Hauser (no less) built around an impeccably intense performance by Susannah York as a psychiatrist who is ostensibly brought in to assess young Sister Agnes's sanity, but whose real task is to strengthen the proceedings with a shrink's crisis of faith similar to the one which proved so profitable in *Equus*.

She is an atheist who can now have no children, who saw her sister left to die of acute appendicitis in a convent, who went to see Garbo's *Camille* five or six times in the hope that a different last reel might avert the tragedy, and is still searching for something to produce happy endings. Confront her with a Mother Superior (Honor Blackman, unrecognizable in coif, habit and rasping Irish accent) who has her own claim of motherhood over the girl, and you have a situation which can look as though it has the stuff of drama and over which enough intellectual tie-ups can be cross-hatched to dazzle the stalls public and leave them with the impression that something significant is being said.

Agnes, whose baby has been found in a convent waste-paper basket, can remember nothing of its conception, but the potentially interesting question of paternity proves to be a side issue. When, under hypnosis, she relives the original act she utters a riot of eucharistic and nature imagery, sings a few little country songs all too similar to Ophelia's in her mad scene and describes her partner in terms that would equally well fit Christ himself, an angel or a tempting ploughboy.

Hilary Reynolds has the task of making convincing theatre out of these ecstasies; perhaps they need a Patti Love to make them work, which they hardly deserve. With her baby face Miss Reynolds is convincing as the sort of novice (is there one?) who thinks "suffer little children" means "let children suffer", imagines good babies are conceived by an angel whispering into their mother's ear, and sees visions of the mother who sexually tortured her and must now be in hell because she looks as though she has stepped out of a hot shower.

Miss York, making a welcome return to the London stage, handles her private confessions to the audience with a conviction that almost disguises their origins as the life-story gush so beloved of American theatre, and sails with a through such deplorable attempts at humour as the discussion of what saints might smoke. (King-size for Thomas More; St Joan would chew Gold Block.)

Probably telling her to "get the hell out of it" with softly Irish "it's", Honor Blackman's Mother Miriam Ruth also gives proof of a versatility that suggests the cast have rosier prospects than the playwright.

Anthony Masters

Promenade Concert

City of London
Sinfonia/Hickox
Albert Hall/Radio 3

Colin Matthews's *Night Music* is not a new piece. It was first heard in 1977 and published the following year; the BBC recorded it not long ago: it has been played in Europe and America. Which makes it the kind of work we ought to hear more of at the Proms - one with something of a track record, rather than a commissioned bolt from the blue. Matthews dedicated it to the memory of Deryck Cooke, who died while the piece was being written. The composer says this "no doubt influenced its somewhat elegiac mood", but on this occasion there was more of the dour, monochrome colouring suggested by the title than any feeling of elegy.

Indeed *Night Music* seems to be looking for a darkened melody in a pitchblack room: over obsessive low, punctuating chords from the wind (some times attacked by louder horn calls, a difficult texture to balance well), fragments emerge: a rising flute passage, a sudden whirling aside of a curtain of strings to reveal busy

wind activity. (This last move into a new section was punctuated to the bar-line by what sounded like the yelp of a unruly promenade dog in the gallery.) The material recurs, expressively varied around a central section, but not until the last *adagio molto* does a ghost of a tune emerge into the light, only to evaporate at the close.

Under Richard Hickox, the score was projected soberly, accurately (a few awkwardnesses in the wind and one trumpet fluff aside) but without quite making its 20-minute stretch cohere. Hickox was more successful at capturing the splendidly spiky qualities of Britten's *Sinfonietta*, Op. 1, with its two soaring violins over grunted basses a remarkable anticipation of sounds to come half a century later. Antony Pay (who recently conducted the Britten well) gave a disappointing account of Mozart's Clarinet Concerto, ill at ease with tuning in the Allegro and slowing the *adagio* over return in the Adagio sentimentally. At the end, Beethoven's First Symphony: a lithe, energetic but not especially perceptive account, very well played.

Nicholas Kenyon



Howel, King of All Wales (1641), from the Carmarthenshire Record Office

Galleries
The Common Chronicle
Victoria and Albert Museum

Offered the prospect of archival treasures from the county record offices of England and Wales, one might be forgiven for a degree of uncertainty about what one was actually likely to see. Papers with important signatures? Registers of the births, marriages and deaths of the famous? What sort of thing finds its way into county record offices anyway? The show called *The Common Chronicle*, which is at the Victoria and Albert Museum until September 11, provides a far from dusty answer to all these queries.

The first thing which will no doubt surprise most visitors is the extent and variety of the visual interest. When the exhibits are the sort of thing you might expect - genealogies, for instance - they are usually objects of such colour and intricacy and visual splendour that even the least specialist would enjoy looking at them. The seventeenth and eighteenth-century maps and plans and records of local surveys are often enchanting in themselves, with their little toy houses and graphically depicted animals in the fields. And some really important illuminated manuscripts, such as the early fifteenth-century Bury St. Edmunds Psalter, have also somehow arrived in record office collections, and so in this exhibition.

Later on, there is a surprising richness of photographic record, especially of the less flattering aspects of local life, the slums and the workhouses and the night-soil men of South Yorkshire proudly posed around their wagons. A lot of trade tokens and printed ephemera of all kinds extend the value of the collections as social history, but also often delight on artistic grounds as well. What one gets from the show is a vivid panorama of British social life, especially of the humbler sort, through some five centuries. Comfortingly, though the miseries are not glossed over, there are splendours too, evoked with every sign of relish: the choice is left open.

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GLC
The Genius, a new play by Howard Brenton, opens at the Royal Court on September 12.

South Bank Summer Music

Amadeus Quartet
Queen Elizabeth Hall

One of the largest audiences so far at South Bank Summer Music assembled on Wednesday to hear the Amadeus Quartet and not surprisingly for the name and the musicianship hardly have to shout to make themselves heard. It is the more disquieting, then, that of late that is exactly what seems to be happening.

There is still so much to admire, qualities in this quartet's playing that it is even tempting to take for granted: the spontaneous fusion of delight and high seriousness, for instance, in the geometrical puzzle of the Allegretto of Beethoven's Op. 95 F minor Quartet; the weight of rhythmic unanimity churning the asymmetry of its third movement and the finale of Brahms's Op. 51 No. 2; the flux of tempo and timbre within the same shared impetus in the slow movements.

But these qualities now glint and arrest the ear only to be smothered in an impetus which substitutes external ardour for internal, disciplined energy, and dissipates argument by squandering what is subordinate rather than using it to sharpen or offset the main thrust. Whether periodic technical clumsiness is due to ill-health or to a lack of rehearsal, the audience cannot know, but it is not pleasant to find oneself waiting for the next pre-echo or bracing oneself against the coarse reply or riposte which, as in the opening of the Beethoven,

merely stings where it should scar.

The Brahms suffered least: its contours were merely exaggerated at times, its part-writing polarized but always alert and alive. If the spirit had a clear win over the letter here, then in the Haydn Op. 77 No. 1 Quartet, which opened the evening, the letter was too crudely articulated for the spirit to resist distortion. What started out as a potentially agreeable bluff rhythmic humour soon became monotonous, as phrases were allowed to bulge out of shape; and the Presto served only to reveal the invalidity of sound without due respect for silence.

Hilary Finch

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Burton placing expected

circulars suggesting that London Brick - unchanged at 80p - might bid after all. On Wednesday London Brick described Istock as expensive and said there were other ways of expanding into non-fiction brickmaking than by buying Istock.

But several brokers are now saying that London Brick is just trying to talk the price down and may return with an offer next Wednesday when it reports its half-year figures. London Brick refused comment.

One option being considered by London Brick is to build up a stake in a number of smaller regional brickmakers. It might be cheaper but would take a lot longer and could miss the current revival in brick demand.

mand. RTZ dropped back from the year's peak to 660p. The shares have been strong ahead of next month's figures. Its main Australian subsidiary, CRA, has results due next week and they are expected to be good after the much improved performance from Bougainville, a subsidiary of CRA.

Wayne Lintott

Big institutional investors were said to have been sounded out yesterday about a placing of 40 million shares by the Burton Group. It is the second such occurrence in a fortnight. Such a placing would raise about £130m at yesterday's price of 334p, enough for Burton to buy the Richard Shops and John Collier chains from Hanson Trust.

But Mr Mike Wood, Burton's finance director, said: "Just you wait and see. There will be no placing tomorrow". Burton is now generally reckoned to be the front runner in the race against Mr Gerald Ronson's Heron Corporation and the shops' own management to buy them from Hason.

Yesterday was a day for knocking down market takeover rumours and general speculation.

The Government, its brokers - Mullens - British Petroleum's finance director, Mr Quentin Morris, all denied that any date had yet been set for the proposed public sale of £500m of the Government's BP share stake. Mr Morris also quashed any thoughts of BP going to the

market for funds, saying, "The Government have run us out on that one." BP shares closed 2p better at 446p after dropping during the day. Fears of a major BP share sale dampened trading on the market yesterday.

Cape Industries, 64 per cent owned by Charter Consolidated, continued gaining ground at 154p after visits to the company by several brokers. The overall view is that the severe rationalization programme and cost-cutting measures have improved productivity and efficiency and that the company is a good recovery stock.

Cape's managing director, Mr William Doughty, did not disagree saying that he was not unhappy with the current profits performance. He too dismissed takeover speculation. He said that Charter Consolidated did not intend spending any of its recently acquired

£20m cash on buying out the company's minority shareholders.

That leaves English China as Charter's takeover favourite in the market's view and those shares held steady at 216p. Charter dropped 5p to 278p,

Mr Alfred Vogel, chairman of textiles company L. D. & S. Rivlin, would appreciate someone telling him who exactly has sold a large stake in the company. Mr Mike Sagarand, the largest shareholder, still has his 26 per cent holding and the pension trusts and Mr L. M. Rivlin still hold theirs. No large interest have shown up on the share register.

TI Group rose 10p to 164p after its improved profit figures and hopes that the company will sell the Raleigh bicycle

subsidiary, once again denied by the directors.
Elsewhere in the sector, BICC

rose 5p to 233p in front of next month's profit figures. Hawker Siddeley climbed 6p to 324p ahead of its expected purchase of John Brown's turbine division. Hopes of a good recovery in some secondary engineering stocks put 12p on Staveley at 60p.

The shares of holiday companies were hit by fears that the price cutting by Thomson could develop into a price war, particularly as Horizon has just reported a sharp profits drop. Horizon shares were down 5p at 28p and Intasun were 3p off at 48p.

A bullish broker's circular put
up on to Harris Queensway at
80p. In advance of profit
figures due next Tuesday Taylor
Woodrow added 5p to ton 530p.
Ibstock Johnson put on 5p to
61p as several brokers put out

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Investment and Finance

City Editor
Anthony Hilton

THE TIMES

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STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 738.9 up 2.9
FT All Shares 455.74 up 0.15
Barrington 21,232
Datastream USM Leaders
Index 103.86 up 0.56
New York Dow Jones
Average (latest) 1,204.40 up 0.10
Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones
Index 9,089.58 up 79.50
Hongkong Hang Seng
Index 1,000.90 down 24.23
Amsterdam 152.50 down 1.40
Sydney AO Index 685.30 up 8.20
Frankfurt Commerzbank
Index 952.50 up 4.30
Brussels General Index
132.74 up 1.23
Paris CAC Index 134.30 up 2.40
Zurich SKA General 292.60 up 0.10

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.5235 up 1.05
Index 85.5 up 0.3
DM 4.0150 up 0.0150
FF 12.0825 up 0.0450
Yen 370.25 up 1.25
Dollar
Index 127.6 unchanged
DM 2.6350
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.5250
INTERNATIONAL
ECU 5.6801
SDR 6.67385

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates
Bank base rate 9%
Finance houses base rate 10%
Discount market loans week fixed 9%
3 month interbank 9 1/4-9 1/2
Euro-currency rates
3 month dollar 10-10 1/2
3 month DM 5 1/2-5 3/4
3 month FF 15-14 1/2
US rates
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9%
Treasury long bond 103.15/32-103.19/32
ECG Fixed Rate Sterling
Export Finance Scheme IV
Average reference rate for interest period July 6 to August 2, 1983 inclusive: 9.989 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$421 pm \$421.50
close \$422-\$422.75 (2277.27) up 30.75
New York latest: \$421.50
Krugerrand (per coin)
\$435-\$436.50 (\$285.50-\$286.50)
Sovereigns (new)
\$99-\$100 (\$65-\$65.75)
Excludes VAT

ANNUAL MEETINGS

Ariel Industries, Allan House,
Newark Street, Leicester
(4.00)
Chamberlain Phillips, The
Manor House, Higham Ferrers,
Northamptonshire (2.30)
John J. Lees, Albany Hotel,
Bathwell Street, Glasgow
(12.00)
May & Hassell, Grand Hotel,
Broad Street, Bristol (noon)
Nesco Investments, 44,
Bloomsbury Square, WC1
(12.00)

TODAY

Interims: Algemeine Bank
Nederland, Charles Baynes,
Benford Concrete Machinery,
English and Scottish Investors,
Gt Asia (Sterling) Fund (quarterly), Leisuretime International,
Finke WG Allen and Sons
(Tipton), Mining Supplies, Pifco, Press Tools, Waring and Gillow, Wholesale Fittings.
Economic statistics: Sales and orders in the engineering industries (May). Finished steel consumption and stock changes (second quarter - provisional).

NOTEBOOK

Philips, the Dutch electrical giant, raised its interim net profits from 250m guilders to 258m guilders (\$57.6m), while sales volume rose by only 1 per cent. But both sales of, and profits from, consumer goods are still under pressure and the company does not expect overall net profit for the year to grow by the forecast 4-5 per cent. The joint agreements with AT & T in digital switching systems and with Warner and Siemens in recorded music are progressing.

● The 10 Trustee Savings Banks (TSBs) in England and Wales, which have over 1,200 branches, are to amalgamate into a bank called TSB England and Wales on November 21. The four Scottish TSBs combined to form TSB Scotland in May. Legislation to convert the TSBs into a companies act structure is well advanced.

Sterling M3 still double Treasury's target

Fall in money supply growth will continue, says Government

By Peter Wilson-Smith

The Government reassured financial markets yesterday that it was bringing money supply back under control in an attempt to allay any remaining fears of higher interest rates. The Treasury said that it expected the annualised rate of money growth to continue to fall in the months ahead. All three main measures of money supply are still running well ahead of the Government's 7 to 11 per cent target range in the February-July period. But final money supply figures for last month, published yesterday by the Bank of England, confirmed that monetary growth slowed sharply in July after the previous month's surge.

Sterling M3, the most widely watched measure of broad money supply, is still increasing at an annualised rate of 14.7 per cent. However, the detailed figures published yesterday confirm that the main expansionary impetus was coming from the public sector's high level of borrowing. The Government managed to soften the impact of this in July with the high level of government debt sales. Government debt sales of £1.1bn - mostly gilt-edged stocks - were the highest since last November. The low level of bank lending to the private sector also helped the Government to get closer to its targets in July. Seasonally-adjusted bank lending rose by only £300m.

Government officials believe there is little sign of a resurgence in demand loans from the private sector and officials were also expressing confidence yesterday that the high level of government borrowing and spending which caused money supply to overshoot so badly this year, will not continue. This has led to optimism in the Treasury that the pace of money growth will continue to slacken, and should in turn help to remove lingering fears about higher interest rates in the United Kingdom. However, other official statistics out yesterday may add to doubts about the strength of the economic recovery.

Cyclical indicators for the economy which are supposed to give early signs of changes in economic activity shows almost no change in the longer leading index between April and July. The Central Statistical Office said it was impossible to tell whether this was more than a temporary hesitation in the previous rise in the index. The latest figures on capital spending for the second quarter of the year also show investment in the economy stagnating. One mildly optimistic sign is that manufacturing industry investment has picked up slightly, but from a low base. Industry's stock levels also fell in the second quarter of the year. A small rise had been expected, but the provisional estimate for manufacturers, retailers and wholesalers stocks indicate a fall of £155m.

MONEY GROWTH

| | July % | Feb-July annual % |
|------|--------|-------------------|
| M1 | -0.4 | 14.9 |
| M2 | 0.8 | 14.7 |
| PSL2 | 0.7 | 15.6 |

Target band Feb 1983 to April 1984 at annual rate 7 to 11

Source: Bank of England

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

| | Manufacturing | Construction, Distribution & Financial | Total |
|---------|---------------|--|-------|
| 1982 | 5472 | 9365 | 14837 |
| 1982 Q1 | 1383 | 2325 | 3708 |
| Q2 | 1373 | 2264 | 3637 |
| Q3 | 1386 | 2342 | 3728 |
| Q4 | 1350 | 2424 | 3774 |
| 1983 Q1 | 1249 | 2440 | 3689 |
| Q2 (P) | 1272 | 2410 | 3682 |

(P) Provisional

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However, other official statistics out yesterday may add to doubts about the strength of the economic recovery.

Maxwell complaint against Kleinwort

By Our Financial Staff

Mr Robert Maxwell, chairman of the British Printing & Communication Corporation, yesterday lodged a complaint with the Takeover Panel against Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank. Kleinwort is acting as adviser to John Waddington in that company's defence against an £18.2m takeover bid by BPCC. Mr Maxwell's complaint follows Kleinwort's claim that shareholders representing 46.2 per cent of Waddington's capital had indicated that they did not intend to accept the BPCC offer.

"I have lodged a very vigorous complaint with the panel Mr Maxwell said. 'This is the first time I am aware that a merchant bank has claimed that it has 46 per cent of shareholders supporting them before an offer has closed.' Last night it emerged that the Takeover Panel had agreed the wording of the Kleinwort Benson letter which Mr Maxwell claims is in breach of takeover rules. However, Mr Maxwell contended that the panel is now 'deeply embarrassed' about this. He said that BPCC had questioned 10 leading institutional shareholders in Waddington and that only two - the M & G and Britannic - had indicated that they would reject the BPCC offer terms. Together the M & G and Britannic hold 20 per cent of BPCC. The only other known institutional shareholder is Pearl Assurance with a 1 per cent stake.

In a circular posted to shareholders yesterday Mr Maxwell urged shareholders to accept BPCC's offer terms of shares for every 5 Waddington, or a cash alternative of 249.6p. Last night Waddington's shares were at 244p, down 10p. The paper offer values Waddington at 275p a share.

Krugerrand sales fall by 20%

By Lorna Bourke

Sales of Krugerrands last month were 20 per cent below those of a year ago and were less than one third of the June total. July sales were 117,758 ounces compared with 147,061 ounces in July last year, and 407,579 for June this year. Dealers blame the decline on a relatively unexciting performance by gold last month. It traded within a narrow \$20 range depressing sales which tend to fluctuate wildly depending on gold price movements. Gold hit a high for this year of \$503 an ounce in January compared with a low for that month of \$449, and investors piled in, buying more than 437,000 ounces of Krugerrands. Last month gold traded between \$410 and \$430 giving investors little room to speculate and sales at 117,758 ounces reflected this.

Overall, sales for the first seven months of this year are 9 per cent up on the same period last year, totalling 2,164,280 ounces. This is surprising since gold traded within a much wider range last year - \$296 to \$488 compared with a range this year of \$410 to \$511. "A large proportion of Krugerrands are bought by private investors and sales are therefore subject to seasonal factors like holidays," said Mr David Youngman of Manchester stockbrokers Charlton Seal Dimmock & Co. Mr Youngman believes that a continuation of the present trading range for gold seems most likely.

"Following the invasion of Chad by Libyan troops and with the conflict in Central America showing no signs of easing, a significant decline in the gold price is unlikely and the substantial technical support around \$400 should limit any fall," he says. He believes this will be counterbalanced by uncertainty over American interest rates, and the US budget deficit which will prevent gold from making any significant headway.

Banks grant Poland extension on debts

By Our Banking Correspondent

Poland has reached broad agreement with commercial banks on rescheduling \$2.6bn (£1.7bn) of loans and interest payments due this year. Talks were continuing yesterday in Vienna to hammer out details, but an official communiqué said that the banks had signed a memorandum of understanding with officials of the Polish finance ministry and the foreign trade bank, Bank Handlowy. Western banks have agreed to spread payments of capital over a larger period than previously because of Poland's deep-seated economic problems. Ninety-five per cent of the \$1.5bn capital due will be rescheduled over 10 years, instead of the seven years in the 1982 rescheduling agreement. Bankers have also made a further concession on how much of the \$1.1bn of interest payments due this year will be re-lent to the Poles in new trade credits. Originally 60 per cent was proposed, but this has been increased to 65 per cent.

Western governments are expected to meet next month to discuss Poland's official debts again, in the wake of the lifting of martial law which had blocked official reschedulings since 1981. The governments may also soon be discussing part of Brazil's huge debts. Brazil is reported to have asked the Paris Club, the ad hoc group of western governments which handles reschedulings, to hold talks on extending payments. According to Brazilian central bank figures, the country owed governments and official agencies \$14.3bn at the end of 1982.

FOREIGN DEBT (\$bn)

| | Total Short-term IMF debt | Poland | Brazil |
|--|---------------------------|--------|--------|
| | 27 | 16.7 | 6.0 |

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Argentina 'risk' insurance

By John Lawless

The British Government insured a British company for more than £1m against the "political risks" involved in setting up a new business in Argentina - just a few days after the invasion of the Falklands. The company, which has not been named but is understood to be involved in supplying construction equipment, paid about £13,000 to insure itself for £1.1m right away, and up to £1.95m over the next 15 years. The facts emerged from the annual report of the Export Guarantees and Overseas Investment Act, published yesterday for the last financial year. That period began on April 1, last year. The Argentines invaded the Falklands the day. The Export Credits Guarantee Department - which issued the policy under a five-year-old Act designed to encourage British firms to invest in developing countries - refused to comment on the nature of its business.

The British Government insured a British company for more than £1m against the "political risks" involved in setting up a new business in Argentina - just a few days after the invasion of the Falklands.

City Editor's Comment

Keeping confidence in the Commission

Mr Nigel Brookes, chairman of Trafalgar House, intends next month to press for publication of the evidence his side has submitted to the Monopolies Commission which is sitting in judgment on his proposed acquisition of P&O, the shipping group. One has to admire his courage, if nothing else, because securing the necessary permission promises to be a bureaucratic nightmare. Now only does he need to get the approval of the Commission, but the Secretaries of State for Defence, Transport and Trade and Industry will also have to be won over. Doing that may well require a voluminous and individual submission to each because, though they may not have the legal right to refuse permission, they do have every right to demand to be persuaded.

That quality will surely not improve if principals begin to submit evidence, not in confidence, but with an eye instead to eventual publication.

Holmes à Court reminder

The appearance in London this weekend of Mr Robert Holmes à Court will remind investors that there are some takeover bids he sees through to the end. He is here on business with Associated Communications Corporation, the former Lord Grade company he bought lock stock and film rights against all odds early last year. His takeover of ACC set a pattern which has become increasingly his own: he bought a small stake ownership of which filtered out and became public knowledge. The pattern seems to be repeated at Fleet Holdings, the national newspaper and magazine group headed by Lord Matthews. Mr Holmes à Court has built up a stake which his aids confirm is now 3 1/2 per cent. He has held about 2 per cent of the group for sometime but has been buying more recently.

Aggressor amidst the fleet. Last month, what was regarded as the "parental protection" stock held by Trafalgar House, Fleet's former parent company, was cancelled. It effectively allowed Trafalgar to convert £15m loan stock into about 40 per cent of Fleet shares in the event of a takeover bid, and was designed to keep the infant Fleet independent until it began maturing. Even without this protection, any takeover intentions by Mr Holmes à Court looks premature, although he is offended by the suggestion that he would sooner walk away from a situation with profit than make a full scale bid. But the sceptics were out in the stock market yesterday where Fleet Holdings, emerged 18 months ago at 21p a share, fell back 3p to 119p. Even at this level, Mr Holmes à Court is still showing a profit.

Share prices lose opening gains

New York (AP-DJ) - Wall Street stocks turned mixed after the early follow-through gain faded. The Dow Jones industrial average was down by more than three points. It was up by 2 1/2 points in early trading. Advances still outnumbered declines, however, by a 3-to-2 margin. Trading was moderate.

Mr Harry Lambacher, a market analyst for Paine Webber, said: "The ties of the bond and stock market may be fading, but stocks still respond to the bond market action. Bonds appear to be finding a bottom."

The IDA makes loans for 50 years to the poorest countries, without interest and charging only a service fee. It was founded just over 20 years ago as an offshoot from the World Bank, whose president is Mr A. W. "Tom" Clansen. Under IDA6, which was extended by a fourth year, the association should lead \$12,000m.

Bank seeks \$16bn for loans programme

The International Development Association, the concessional loan arm of the World Bank, has embarked on an intensive lobbying effort to convince the Reagan administration that it should contribute more to the next round of IDA funding. IDA officials fear that if they cannot persuade the United States by the time of the annual meeting of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund at the end of next month at least to relax its attitude, IDA 7, the next round, will not start on the scheduled date of July 1 next year.

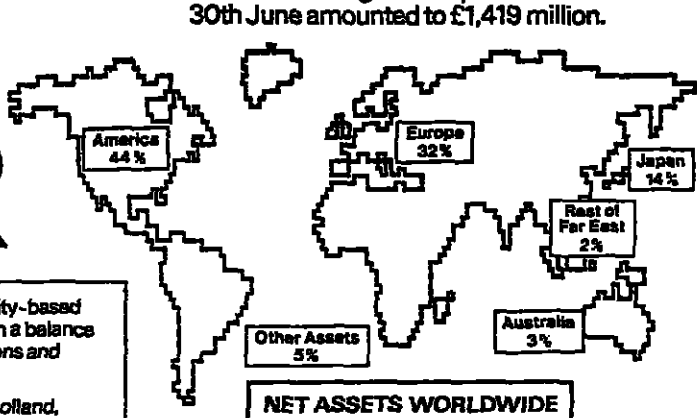
But a succession of meetings in recent months has failed to dissuade the Americans from reducing their commitments to only \$750m a year. Since the donor members of the IDA, who are mainly the rich industrial countries, contribute in proportion to the United States, IDA7 might be only \$9,000m. The IDA, however, believes that at least \$16,000m is needed to offset inflation and to allow for China having joined the association. While admitting that the organization is engaged in a race against time, Mr Percy Mistry, a senior financial adviser at the bank, yesterday described \$16,000m as a "tough but not impossible target."

Nevertheless, Mr Mistry feared that even if the lobbying campaign made headway, there was a danger that next month's IMF meeting could be distracted by another debt crisis, possibly Brazil, just as Mexico loomed large at last year's gathering. So far, however, the IDA has been reluctant to entertain suggestions that it could charge interest, lend over shorter periods, or borrow money itself on approximately market terms. The lobbying strategy is partly based on the belief that there is a "leadership gap" in the IDA. Japan has agreed to increase its contribution as a percentage of the whole.

ROBECO SHARES RISE BY OVER 20% IN FIRST HALF YEAR

The middle market price of our shares on 31st December, 1982, was £58. At 30th June, 1983, it was £70 - a rise of 20.7%. If the dividend of £3.00 paid in April is included, the appreciation totals 26%.

- The general rise in stock prices shows increasing confidence in economic recovery and improved business confidence.
- The United States particularly is leading this recovery, due mainly to a substantial increase in consumer spending. We have realised part of the capital gains made in our American portfolio and have also fully covered our dollar interests against currency risks. In Europe we have added to existing holdings and acquired new interests. We have also increased our holdings in the Far East.
- More than 325,000 new shares were issued during the first half-year, bringing the total outstanding to nearly 21 million. Assets at 30th June amounted to £1,419 million.



Robeco, founded in 1933, is an equity-based trust, designed to provide investors with a balance between reasonable income expectations and capital appreciation prospects. With headquarters in Rotterdam, Holland, Robeco is one of a group of investment companies which, between them, have assets of about £4,000 million.

To: Robeco N.V., Dept 385, P.O. Box 973
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Please send me a copy of the ROBECO semi-annual report for 1983.

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(CAPITALS PLEASE)
Address _____

Jeremy Warner reports on an unusual meeting

Lunchtime rescue bid fails to satisfy chairman of TKM

It could have been any expense-account lunch - four men, a secluded table at the Savoy, four courses, two wines and a large bill at the end.

But this was no ordinary business meeting. They were talking big money - up to £70m. The aim was no less ambitious than the refinancing of a once prosperous international trading group now overburdened by a mountain of debt, supported by its bankers, and with no hope of trading its way into securer pastures.

Ranged round the table were the chairman of British Car Auctions, Mr David Wickins, fresh from his success in helping to save Group Lotus, the Norfolk sports car company; Mr Stephen Evans from the stockbrokers Anderson & Co and Mr Murdoch Morrison, a freelance corporate financier.

Their guest was Sir Montague Prichard, chairman of Tower Kemsley and Millbourn, the deeply troubled motor distribution and property group. It was his company they were discussing.

Sir Montague was installed as chairman of TKM last Christmas. He had been a director for many years. In the preceding years the group, which had once recorded pretax profits of £16m, made an attributable loss of £26m, while net debt, at £100m, had spiralled to seven times the value of shareholders' funds.

Mr Kenneth Thorogood, the former chairman, and the ex-Slater Walker man Mr Malcolm Horsman, who had been managing director for two years, left abruptly.

Sir Montague listened with a mixture of hope and incredulity as his fellow diners discussed a plan that might all but wipe out the group's £100m banking debt.

The three men claimed to speak for a group of shareholders together accounting for more than 50 per cent of TKM's share capital.

The plan was to raise an initial £13.5m via a one-for-all rights issue. This would be underwritten by financial and industrial companies who were already shareholders in TKM.

'We cannot trade our way out of this position'

In addition they would subscribe an equal amount of new shares capital on top, taking the total raised to £27m.

They also wanted to see a strengthening of the TKM board of directors through promotion, from inside the group, of various executives in the subsidiary companies and through the appointments of outsiders.

But try as Sir Montague may, he could not persuade Mr Morrison or Mr Evans to disclose the identity of their clients or those prepared to put up the hard cash.

He knew that Anderson had, over a long period put a lot of clients into TKM who were now nursing sizable paper losses on their investment.

He was also told that Mass Development of Kuwait with 9.5 per cent of TKM was a supporter of the scheme and that arm's length support was also being offered by Mr Kenneth Thorogood, who continues to hold more than 9 per cent of TKM, acquired in controversial fashion in May 1981.

But without more information, Sir Montague could not take the plan seriously.

In any case, the deal would depend on TKM's legion of 86 bankers currently co-ordinated by a committee of those lending the company £5m or more cash under the chairmanship of National Westminster.

They would have to agree to convert at least £27m of their debt into some form of deferred equity like redeemable preference shares.

This is not such an unlikely prospect as it might seem since the lease of life granted to TKM by its bankers comes to an end next May. The idea of conversion had also originated from one of the larger lending banks.

This ambitious proposal had been put together by Morrison Associates, several City pension



Thorogood (left) and Horsman: they left abruptly



Prichard (left) and Wickins: at cross purposes

finds and one big clearing bank were said to be committed to putting up the cash.

The lunch took place on July 9, but the proposal has yet to receive a decision from Sir Montague, who already takes merchant banking advice from Lazards.

"I am as aware as anyone that we cannot trade our way out of this position," he says. "It is obvious that we need capital reconstruction. But the bankers are likely to want to see further proof that we can trade profitably and successfully before they will agree to it."

"The basis of the scheme as presented is worthy of being put to our bankers, but I have yet to see concrete proposals and the names of the people prepared to put up the money. I would also have preferred to have waited until next spring."

TKM was once primarily an international finance and commissioning house, but during the late 1960s and most of the 1970s it went the way of most ambitious trading companies, expanding into a wide diversity of businesses by acquisition.

Though TKM never sparked in the way some international traders did, all went well until 1979 when the group lost its lucrative BMW motor distributor franchise in Britain - a business that had contributed about £7m profits in that year.

In an effort to replace the lost earnings, it paid £26m for Wadhwa Stringer, a motor distributor which accounts for about a tenth of BL's British sales.

It proved to be a disastrous acquisition, bought at a time when car sales were plunging and finance costs were soaring. In 1980, Wadhwa Stringer, far from replacing earnings, actually lost £5m.

TKM was in trouble and it was clear that the wheeler dealing ways of the past had to be put into reverse quickly.

But it was not until November 1981 that the group made its first divestment. The Overseas Services and Wings holiday business was sold to Bank Organization for £14.5m.

The following May the original commissioning house business was sold to the Hongkong Bank for £19m. The loss-making McKee agricultural equipment and snow blowing offshoot in Canada was first merged with a competitor and then put into receivership in November 1982.

The same sort of fate awaited the cement foot interests which were first merged with Imperial Group's Snedley-HP Foods business and then sold for £1 to a private company with a better record in the industry.

This programme has left TKM with a shrunken down Wadhwa Stringer, profitable franchises in Britain and France for the Japanese car makers Mazda and Daihatsu, substantial property interests in North

America, the Price and Pierce timber and pulp company and several smaller peripheral interests.

Though the group returned to profit in its last half year of trading, these businesses are not of the scale necessary to service £100m of debt.

So far, the handling of the crucial refinancing issue has been a public relations disaster. An enormous gulf seems to separate board from shareholders and shareholders from supporting bankers.

The Morrison group apparently believed that its plan had been adopted in principle by the board shortly before the annual meeting on July 19.

Emissary failed to close the credibility gap

This belief, based on a letter from Lazard Brothers, on August 4, helped to head off a planned shareholders' revolt at the meeting.

But very little progress has been made since then. Another example of the communications gap is conflict over the role of Mr David Wickins.

He claims that he set up the original lunch to acquaint Sir Montague with the refinancing proposal and to offer himself as someone who might have a management contribution to make to Wadhwa Stringer.

Sir Montague claims, however, that he never fully understood the position of Mr Wickins in the affair so that when Mr Wickins sounded off in the press about a plan he had cooked up several years ago to float Wadhwa Stringer off, Sir Montague hit the roof.

The blue-blooded merchant bank Robert Fleming was recently appointed as emissary for the Morrison group but even this has failed to close the credibility gap that anonymity has created. If it is to get anywhere, the group will have to reveal itself.

Meanwhile its organizers are putting together a management team which they plan to move on to the TKM board when the time is right.

Besides Sir Montague, who has taken on the role of chief executive despite the original non-executive nature of his chairmanship, there are only two other executives on the board. The rest is composed of four non-executives who from time to time chair the group's three management committees.

To shareholders, the eventual alternatives seem to be a capital reconstruction or receivership. The sooner some kind of reconstruction can be put through, the sooner TKM can hope to become a viable investment again.

SIEMENS

Information for Siemens shareholders

Respectable showing in stagnating markets

Although the international economic situation remained unsatisfactory during the first nine months - 1 October 1982 to 30 June 1983 - of the current financial year, Siemens recorded a 13% rise in new orders worldwide and a small 3% growth of sales as against last year's third-quarter totals. Orders in hand rose 11% to nearly £15,100m.

New orders. Business differed widely in domestic and international markets and among the various operating sectors. New domestic orders increased 46% to £4,646m, due largely to two major power plant contracts. But even discounting the weight of these projects, domestic business brought in 7% more orders than in the same period last year. At £4,352m, new international orders remained 9% below last year's figure. Contributing to this result were the continuing stagnation of most industrial economies, balance of payment difficulties of several key client nations, and a slowing of infrastructure expansion in a number of oil producing countries.

Among the operating groups, Power Engineering and Automation was hardest hit by slow capital spending in many countries. By contrast, Communications - the other of the two large Siemens Groups - achieved slightly more orders in world markets than last year. Above-average growth of new orders was recorded by both the Data Systems Group and the Medical Engineering Group. The latter has already sold fifteen of its new nuclear magnetic resonance tomographs, nine of them to customers in the U.S.A.

Sales. Worldwide sales increased 3% over last year's third-quarter totals to £7,247m. Business developed somewhat more favourably at home than abroad: domestic sales rose 5% to £3,205m, while international sales were only 2% ahead of last year's figure at £4,042m. Data Systems and Medical Engineering were also the strongest Groups in sales, recording two-figure growth rates.

Inventory. Although inventories have increased 11% to £4,804m during the current financial year, this is due solely to major power plant contracts.

Employees. Underutilization continued to characterize most of the company's production facilities. Thus the number of employees could not remain entirely unaffected; worldwide, it declined 4% to 311,000. In the Federal Republic of Germany and Berlin (West) the reduction was 5%, and abroad 3% - a figure that would also

have been nearly 5% had the employees of a plant acquired by Siemens-Alis not been added to the work force abroad. Employment cost went up 1% to £3,153m.

Capital expenditure and investment, at £283m, remained at last year's level.

Net income after taxes was £138m (last year: £119m), representing a net profit margin of 1.9% (last year: 1.7%).

| In £m | 1/10/81 to 30/6/82 | 1/10/82 to 30/6/83 | Change |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------|
| New orders | 7,992 | 8,998 | +13% |
| Domestic business | 3,193 | 4,646 | +46% |
| International business | 4,799 | 4,352 | -9% |
| Sales | 7,005 | 7,247 | +3% |
| Domestic business | 3,041 | 3,205 | +5% |
| International business | 3,964 | 4,042 | +2% |

| In £m | 30/9/82 | 30/6/83 | Change |
|----------------|---------|---------|--------|
| Orders in hand | 13,582 | 15,087 | +11% |
| Inventory | 4,313 | 4,804 | +11% |

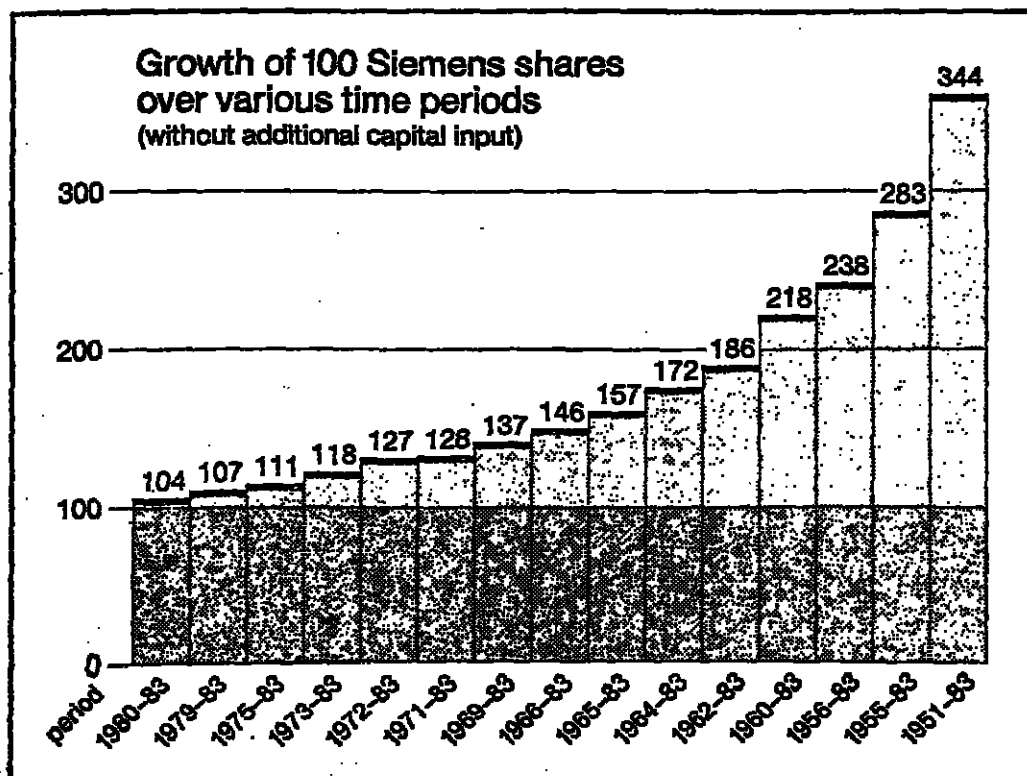
| In thousands | 30/9/82 | 30/6/83 | Change |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|--------|
| Employees | 324 | 311 | -4% |
| Domestic operations | 220 | 210 | -5% |
| International operations | 104 | 101 | -3% |

| | 1/10/81 to 30/6/82 | 1/10/82 to 30/6/83 | Change |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------|
| Average number of employees in thousands | 331 | 316 | -5% |
| Employment cost in £m | 3,130 | 3,153 | +1% |

| In £m | 1/10/81 to 30/6/82 | 1/10/82 to 30/6/83 | Change |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------|
| Capital expenditure and investment | 283 | 283 | - |
| Net income after taxes | 119 | 138 | +16% |
| In % of sales | 1.7 | 1.9 | +12% |

All amounts translated at Frankfurt middle rate on 30 June 1983: £1 = DM 3.892.

How does your Siemens investment grow?



Every few years, Siemens invites its shareholders to subscribe for new capital stock by issuing subscription rights. These rights may be exercised by shareholders to purchase new Siemens shares, even without investing additional capital of their own. The graph shows how these options can be applied to make 100 Siemens shares grow. The calculation assumes that each time there was a capital increase, enough subscription rights were sold by the shareholder to allow him to buy new shares with the proceeds alone. Thus from 1973 to 1983, his 100 shares have grown to 118. In 30 years' time, the number of shares has more than tripled. As a result, not only is the value of his portfolio bigger, but also the size of his annual dividend payment.

Changes at Barclays International

Barclays Bank International: Mr Peter Dodd, managing director of Barclays Asia in Hongkong, had been made general manager in Hongkong. Mr John Philip, chief executive of the National Bank of Malawi, had been appointed managing director of Barclays Bank of Ghana and Mr Robert Bird, a general manager's assistant at the head office in London, is to become managing director of Barclays Bank of Botswana.

Messy-Ferguson has created four divisions out of the firm and industrial machinery division. Each will be headed by a president. Mr James Felker, president of the Perkins Engines division, becomes president of the tractors and farm equipment division. Mr John Sward, director of technical operations for Europe and world exports,

APPOINTMENTS

will be president of the industrial machinery division and Mr Adri Verbaas, formerly general manager for Australia, is to be president of the Australian division. Mr Felker is succeeded as president at Perkins Engines by Mr John Devaney.

The Young Vic Mr Bernard Brook-Partridge has been named as chairman, in succession to Mr Jeffrey Sterling. Mr Kenneth Fleet, who has resigned as deputy chairman, will be succeeded by Mr David Land. Mr Fleet is continuing to serve as a member of the board.

Electronics: Mr David Jones is joining the board as an executive director on September 1.

Thomson Regional Newspapers: Mr William Heaps is now managing director. He has been editorial director since July, 1982, and will continue these responsibilities under the new title of editor-in-chief. Mr Roger Nicholson will be deputy managing director. He remains his present responsibilities and will be assuming additional ones, in particular at TRN board level, for TRN's weekly newspapers at Chester and Merthyr Tydfil.

OCS Group: Mr Trevor Flindall, Mr John Gray and Mr Stephen Phillips have joined the board.

Esco International: Mr Geoffrey Adkins, who is a director of British & Commonwealth Shipping, has been appointed a non-executive director.

Siemens AG

In Great Britain: Siemens Ltd.
Siemens House, Windmill Road, Sunbury-on-Thames
Middlesex, TW16 7HS

As would-be cable television operators conclude their programming proposals and business forecasts for submission to the Home Office at the end of this month, advertisers are fighting to ensure that advertising revenue is not left out of the financial calculations, as it has been to a large extent in America.

In particular, they want to be able to advertise on the premium feature film channels, which are likely to win cable television's biggest audiences. This is not possible in the United States, where the absence of commercials has been one of pay cable's biggest selling points.

Whatever happens it seems certain that advertising agents will not have the same influence over cable broadcasting as they have on ITV.

With the bulk of potential revenue for cable operators coming direct from the viewer in the form of subscriptions and premium payments for specific channels and programmes, advertising is a low priority in the minds of most applicant groups.

Advertisers are concerned that if cable television in Britain follows the American pattern, with commercials excluded from the most popular television channels, they will see their existing ITV audiences fall and be unable to make up the loss by advertising on cable.

"You must allow advertising on your most popular channels," says advertising agency McCann-Erickson in an open letter to potential cable operators this week.

"This has not happened in the United States for historical reasons and goes a long way to explain the apparent reluctance of advertisers there to use cable. But there is no reason why even premium channels should not carry advertisements. The viewer will appreciate that this will keep the subscription costs down." Viewers may or may not agree.

A report from another American-owned advertising agency, Young & Rubicam, spells out the failure of the cable business to attract advertising in the United States.

"Growth of advertising revenue for cable television has been disappointing: the level achieved in 1982 is estimated to have been about \$180m to \$200m, 119m to 132m, well short of the \$250m originally projected and relatively insignificant measured against the \$4.94bn derived from subscription payments.

"As a further comparison, the three national networks - NBC, CBS and ABC - attracted in 1981 an advertising revenue of \$12.7bn; the cable industry's advertising revenue for that year totalled \$129m. On this basis, it is hardly surprising that

Marketing and advertising: Torin Douglas

Worried agencies look to cable TV for a commercial break

only one of the approximately 20 advertising-based cable networks is yet generating any profit.

Instead of simply accepting that the American experience will be repeated here, advertising agencies are arguing that cable operators can learn from what they see as America's mistakes.

For the past two weeks, the agencies' trade body, the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising, has been putting its case in a series of presentations to the 30 or so groups known to be preparing submissions for one of the 12 pilot projects to be licensed by the Home Office this autumn, as well as to some of the companies that will be providing national programme channels for the local operators.

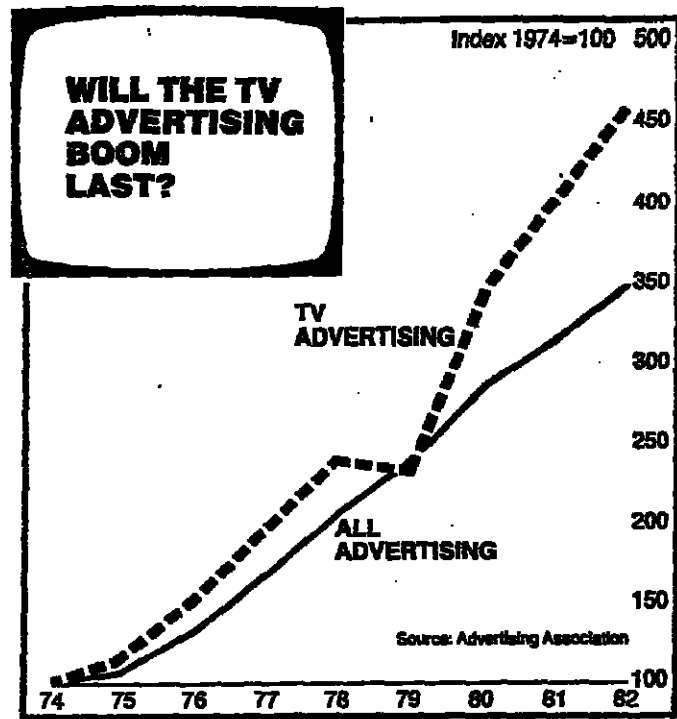
Mr Nicholas Mellersh, chief executive of United Cable Programmes, which intends to launch the sort of high quality, feature film channel that the advertising agencies are anxious to buy airtime on, is impressed by their arguments, but his company has still to decide whether to take commercials.

This week, Mr Mellersh presented his business plan for the service - called TEN, which stands for The Entertainment Network - to the five partners in the United Cable consortium: Rediffusion, Visionhire, Plessey, Rank Trident Cable & Satellite, and the American film company UIP. The question of advertising is fully discussed in the plan, he says.

"Advertising is of crucial importance to cable generally because there is a limit to what people will pay for their programming and it will help reduce that cost," says Mr Mellersh. "Whether or not it is right for the premium channels, however, is a different question."

"For example, should you interrupt a feature film with commercials? Some people argue that that ruins the film. On the other hand, people at home are used to having breaks in a feature film and there is no evidence that they watch less ITV than the BBC because of the ads - on the contrary, 24 of the top 25 feature film audiences on TV last year were ITV's."

One stumbling block may be



the attitude of the motion picture companies, who may not want their films interrupted. Since United Cable's American backer, UIP, is owned by several of the big film studios - MGM, Paramount and Universal - this could be a crucial factor.

A solution could be to allow advertising before or after the film but this would naturally be less attractive to advertisers than breaks in the middle.

Whatever happens, the advertising agencies are urging the cable companies not to promise customers that there will be no advertising. "This is what happened in America and the cable companies are now regretting it," says Mr Peter Todd, media director of Davidson Pearce and chairman of the IPA's Cable Advertising Advisory Group. "It is very difficult to backtrack and allow advertising once you have set your face against it."

Mr Todd believes that there would be no sales benefits for the cable operators in offering channels free of advertising, as there are in America, because British programmes are inter-

rupted far less frequently by commercials.

The IPA is urging the cable operators to set up a sophisticated audience research system. As a model, it points to Independent Local Radio which, after 10 years on air, now has a Radio Marketing Bureau and three national sales companies with cable. However, they do not want to wait 10 years for these facilities.

The agencies face a glaring credibility gap here, for they admit that in the early years there will be little advertising revenue. The Young & Rubicam report points out that it is likely to be 1995 before cable achieves 30 per cent penetration in homes, which is regarded as the minimum needed for a medium to attract serious consideration from national advertisers.

Since the audience research and the sales operation will be expensive to set up and run, the cable business will be tempted not to spend money on such facilities until there is the prospect of a real return.

Unlike the radio stations and ITV, which are obliged to pay

for sales departments and research, since their only source of income is advertising, the cable operators can choose to do without advertising if they feel it is not worth the cost of selling it.

There is the prospect of an impasse in which the advertisers stay off cable because they do not have reliable audience figures and because the sales process is too complex, while the cable operators refuse to provide better back-up services because there is insufficient advertising revenue to justify them.

Ultimately, the most crucial question is what level of advertising is "sufficient" to justify cable taking it seriously and on this issue few people are prepared to speculate. The IPA in its presentation to the Hunt Committee last year predicted that cable could attract £120m (at 1980 prices) by 1995, assuming a 50 per cent penetration of homes by then.

Many agencies, however, felt this was unrealistically optimistic and in its presentations to operators this week, the IPA has been refusing to put forward a figure, pointing out instead that display advertising revenue has grown by 25 per cent in real terms in the last 10 years and that television's share of this figure has risen from 36 to 41 per cent. With advertising's share of gross national product also rising, the implication is that cable operators should tap this growing source of income.

The fact is that advertising agencies will welcome any new medium, on the grounds that if it works it is bound to be to their clients' advantage, but they do not want to commit themselves to supporting it until they see the size of the audience.

As the letter from McCann-Erickson warns operators: "Remember that agencies are the guardians of other people's money and therefore cannot fund speculative enterprises. We need a very good case before parting with money."

Nevertheless, it would be a brave cable company that decided it could do without advertising once it was available. As the IPA pointed out in its evidence to the Hunt Committee, the best analogy for cable is not ITV but newspapers and magazines, which get some of their revenue from cover price and some from advertising.

In theory, the IPA says, the price of popular daily newspapers would have to rise by a third if there were no advertising; quality dailies more than double and quality Sundays treble. Would the cable viewer be prepared to bear the equivalent extra in the cost of his subscription?

Financial notebook

Adding to confusion by simple definition

The recent burst of takeovers may reflect a desire to make bargain purchases in anticipation of an early end to the recession. But it also brings into sharp relief one of the more important unresolved controversies in accounting practice: namely, whether certain types of business amalgamation should be regarded as an acquisition and, if so, how to define a merger and how to account for it.

The reported results in the year of amalgamation can be significantly different, depending on the accounting treatment adopted.

Combine the assets

Those who argue for merger accounting believe that it should be applied where the amalgamation is brought about by an exchange of shares without significant resources leaving the combining companies. Such a transaction, it is argued, is readily distinguishable from an acquisition of a company for cash where the selling shareholders no longer retain an interest in the combined group.

Reflecting the above distinction, advocates of merger accounting argue that the fairest presentation of a so-called merger is to ignore the market value of the newly acquired subsidiary (that is, the price which would have been paid in cash) and instead to combine the assets and liabilities of the individual companies as though they have always belonged to a single owner.

Similarly, group profits before and after the merger of the combining companies are treated as though they had been earned by a single entity, and no adjustment is made to exclude profit earned by the newly acquired subsidiary before the amalgamation.

So why the controversy? By proposing a radically different accounting basis where a merger is identified,

the Accounting Standards Committee, presumably believes that a merger is a distinctly different transaction from an acquisition. It is implicit in such an assumption that a merger cannot stem from a one-sided desire to "acquire" the other company.

Yet the latest proposals would not automatically prohibit merger accounting in such circumstances. Indeed, the only significant criterion to be met before merger accounting may be applied is that the transaction is in the form of a share exchange and that 90 per cent of the offeree's shares are acquired thereby.

The trouble is that it is extremely difficult to define a merger in such a way as to avoid abuse. Consequently, the Committee has opted for the simplest possible definition. That is why so many transactions which in substance are acquisitions will actually qualify for merger accounting. As a result, the pricing placed on a new subsidiary may vary enormously, depending solely on whether it is acquired by share exchange or for cash. This will lead to distortions in measuring the return on the investment and in making comparisons between the profitability of a group built up by cash acquisition and one built up by share exchanges.

Secondly, companies will be encouraged to pursue acquisitions by share exchange for asset-stripping purposes so as to generate higher "profits" than would arise under a cash transaction. This is because, under merger accounting profits accruing on undervalued assets in a company acquired for shares may be realized after acquisition and treated as profit of the subsequent period (albeit the distortion will have to be disclosed in the notes).

Thirdly, companies will be tempted to acquire new subsidiaries by share exchange towards the end of a financial year so as to boost the year's earnings. (Again, the effect of this practice would have to be disclosed in the notes presumably on the premise that disclosing a time as such as useful as possible.)

And, fourthly, companies will be able to create pseudo-mergers by acquiring a subsidiary by share exchange

from another company, having first arranged for that vendor company to be able to place its new shares on the market immediately after acquisition. In substance such a practice is hardly distinguishable from making a rights issue and then buying the subsidiary for cash.

The Accounting Standards Committee acknowledges that its proposals could lead to abuse and seems prepared to rely on full disclosure of bad accounting practices.

Much of the controversy could be eliminated if a fair value had to be placed on the newly acquired subsidiary, irrespective of whether the acquisition was for cash or by shares.

The reason why such a practice has not been advocated in the past is that most people have assumed that, as a consequence, pre-merger profits of the newly acquired subsidiary would be frozen, whereas merger accounting usually allows them to remain distributable. If the vast majority of shareholders in the target company are to be offered shares in the investing company, it seems perfectly reasonable that these shareholders should continue to have access to profits earned by their company before the merger.

Principal objective

However, to meet this point, it would be relatively simple under present law to devise an accounting standard which required the newly acquired subsidiary to be treated at its fair value, yet also enable pre-merger profits to be distributable by the group, provided they have first been paid upwards from the subsidiary to its new company.

In other words, the principal objective of those who advocate merger accounting may be achieved without adopting a different method of valuing the newly acquired subsidiary from that required when the acquisition is for cash, and without encouraging some of the abuses which will otherwise be perpetrated.

David Young
The author is the managing director of Spicer and Pegler.

| Authorized Unit Trusts | | | | Authorized Unit Trusts | | | | Authorized Unit Trusts | | | | Authorized Unit Trusts | | | | Authorized Unit Trusts | | | | Authorized Unit Trusts | | | | Authorized Unit Trusts | | | | Authorized Unit Trusts | | | |
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| 1.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

Distillers

Exports exceed £450 million

Extracts from the Statement of the Chairman, Mr. J. R. Cater, and from the Report by the Directors, for the year ended 31st March 1983.

General comments on results

Turnover and profits

The trading profit of £204.3 million was 12.5% higher than last year, reflecting improved results from each of our groups of products.

The increase in the sales value of Scotch whisky and gin, despite a reduction in volume, was assisted by the strength of the US dollar currency in which we invoice our shipments to the US of whiskies bottled in Scotland and Tanqueray Gin. With demand dampened by the economic recession, profitability was adversely affected by the relatively low utilisation of production capacity.

The Food Group and the Carbon Dioxide Company achieved increases in both turnover and profit.

The markets served by United Glass, the related company in which we hold a 50% interest, remained depressed. Due to further substantial redundancy payments and facility closure costs, our share of the recorded loss was only slightly less than for the preceding year.

Although UK interest rates were lower than twelve months earlier, the amount of income earned on short term investments and deposits rose by £6 million because of the higher level of our liquid resources.

The taxation charge for the year ended 31st March 1982 was disproportionately lower than the charge for the previous year. The position is now reversed. Following a steep fall in the "all stocks index", the taxation charge for the year compares unfavourably with last year's charge, with the result that the profit after taxation shows an increase of only 2.5% against 12.7% in the profit before taxation.

Dividends

An interim dividend has already been paid at the rate of 4.50p, an increase of 1.50p per share over the preceding four years. The sole purpose of the increase was to narrow the difference between the amounts of the interim and final dividends.

The directors recommend a final dividend of 8.50p per share, making the distribution for the year 13.00p against 11.75p last year.

Scotch whisky

Production

The export refund scheme for Community cereals, introduced in 1982, operated very satisfactorily throughout the year and enabled us to increase the proportion of Community cereals used. The only worrying aspect is the extent to which it is misunderstood by the British and the European Parliaments. It has been incorrectly seen as a subsidy to the industry. It is not: it is a proper reimbursement of the industry's own money.

Against a background of continued short time working in all Group distilleries, and because sales projections still disclosed an excess of stocks of maturing whisky against estimated future requirements, a decision had to be taken during the latter part of the year to close 11 of the smaller malt distilleries, 2 by-product plants, Carsbridge Grain Distillery and the Maltings at Port Dundas Distillery. The whisky maturation warehouses which form part of the closed distillery premises continued, and will continue, in operation. There are accordingly no immediate plans to dispose of any of these units.

During the year the Company commenced the sale of malted barley, employing the services of outside selling agents, which will enable greater use to be made of our malting capacity.

In a year when the Group's blending and bottling plants produced at a level well below capacity, it was considered essential to rationalise bottling activities in Fife. This resulted in the closure of Haig's outdated plant and the transfer of bottling to Distillers Company (Bottling Services) Ltd.

No new major capital projects were approved during the year but satisfactory progress was made in the completion of existing contracts.

EEC

In February 1983, the French Government finally complied with the European Court's decision of 1980 by removing the last element of tax discrimination against cereal spirits and in favour of wine spirits. In those three years, the French Government levied over £69 million in unlawful taxes on Scotch whisky imports. Simon Frères is continuing its legal actions to recover the unlawful taxes levied on its own sales.

The European Court condemned aspects of the Italian tax system which discriminate against Scotch whisky and gin. The Italian Government has not yet complied with those decisions.

The French Government recently introduced a new tax on spirits with an alcoholic strength of 25% or more, adding some 60p to the retail price of each bottle. This new discrimination makes the total rate of tax on whisky about 35 times higher than that on wine.

SUMMARY OF GROUP RESULTS

| year ended 31st March | 1983 | 1982 |
|------------------------|---------|---------|
| | £m | £m |
| Turnover | 1,127.2 | 1,083.9 |
| Trading profit | 204.3 | 181.6 |
| Profit before taxation | 200.8 | 178.2 |
| Profit after taxation | 132.9 | 129.7 |
| Dividends | 47.2 | 42.7 |
| Earnings per share | 36.59p | 35.72p |
| Dividends per share | 13.00p | 11.75p |

Direct comparison of industry exports with the preceding year is not possible due to the gap in reliable information for the period between March and August 1981. A comparison for the September/March period of 1982/83 with the same period of the previous year indicates little change in the Group's share of bottled in Scotland shipments. However, an increasing share of sales continued to be taken by very cheap brands imported in bulk. Bulk shipments accounted for a quarter of the Scotch whisky sales in the continental EEC last year, and a growing proportion is being bottled at very low strength.

It is pleasing to record a small increase in the Group's total shipments to the continental EEC markets in 1982/83 compared with the previous year. Johnnie Walker Red Label maintained its strong position with a particularly encouraging performance in France, and Black & White continued to perform well.

The Group's response to the increasing complexity and competitiveness of these markets is to strive to optimise coverage by Group brands of each individual market and to strengthen those brands through increased and selective investment in advertising and other brand-building activities. In this way the Group will be best able to benefit from any future upturn in economic conditions within the EEC.

Home sales

Figures for the year showed a decline of 5.3% in clearances of Scotch whisky in the UK, with the Group's share of the total remaining stable.

Johnnie Walker Black Label and White Horse performed well. The Claymore increased sales substantially, which was encouraging in the face of the continuing growth of private labels owned by major retailing groups. Haig persisted in a policy aimed to position the brand in the prestige sector of the market. The new arrangements for the marketing of Dewar's by Hedges & Butler made a satisfactory start.

An extensive review of the Group's sales and marketing activities in the UK will result in fundamental changes which will enable the Group to operate more efficiently.

In the last two years, reference has been made to the application to the EEC Commission for approval of a price structure for the UK market which would permit a number of Group brands, including Johnnie Walker Red Label, to compete effectively in the UK as well as in export markets. The decision continues to be awaited.

During the year the Chancellor extended to spirits a concession on credit for the payment of duty similar to that which has been allowed for a number of years on certain other alcoholic beverages. Although the percentage rate of duty increase imposed in the Budget was slightly less than the rate of inflation, taxation on spirits compared with wine and beer remained grossly inequitable.

Exports

The volume of Group shipments in the year was slightly down on the previous year, but profits improved by 14%.

This improved financial performance was due to price increases and to the strength of the dollar during the second six months of the year when shipments to the US almost exactly matched those of the equivalent six months of the previous year.

Because of the lack of HM Customs & Excise statistics of industry exports of Scotch whisky referred to above, it has not been possible to compare industry shipments of blended Scotch whisky during the twelve months ended 31st March 1982 and 1983. The statistics for the seven months ended 31st March 1983 indicate that the Group's share of industry shipments had declined mainly as a result of the substantial growth of bulk shipments of blended Scotch whisky at extremely low prices. Industry exports of bulk malt whisky continued at a high level, but the Group does not participate in this trade which is considered to be damaging to the long-term interests of the industry.

In December 1982 price increases were announced for our export trade with the exception of UK-bottled Scotch whiskies destined for the US. However, because of the economic problems in a number of key markets, the buy-in was less than last year.

Group shipments to the US were marginally below last year's. Trade sources estimate that the volume of Scotch whisky entering retail channels was down by 6% during 1982 and there is every indication that the Group maintained market share. The recent slight upturn in the US economy is not yet being reflected in spirit sales. Dewar's White Label had another good year and Johnnie Walker Red Label and Black Label performed satisfactorily. Most of our brands bottled in the US registered increased shipments to the trade. Usher's Green Stripe and VAT 69 Gold were our leading brands in this category.

The Group's trade with South and Central America was seriously affected by devaluation of currencies, loss of oil revenue and political unrest. Less was shipped to Venezuela and, as a result of devaluation and import restrictions, despatches will be adversely affected in the current year. The Group continued to have a major portion of the Scotch whisky trade in this market with its de luxe brands.

The Group had an excellent year in Spain. Trade was very satisfactory in certain Far Eastern countries and in a number of volatile Middle Eastern markets. Shipments to Japan were increased; White Horse maintained its leading position and Old Parr continued to make encouraging progress. Two new brands - White Horse Extra Fine and Johnnie Walker Old Harmony - produced exclusively for the Japanese market were first shipped towards the end of the year and initial sales have been encouraging.

A severe downturn in shipments to West Africa was the main reason for the decline in business with the African Continent. Sales in Australia and New Zealand were seriously affected by economic conditions.

Gin

Production at Wandsworth Distillery was maintained at close to maximum capacity and Tanqueray Gordon's operations continued at normal levels. As a result of reduced demand, Booth's operated well below capacity. The new bottling facility under construction at Basildon made

good progress and should be on stream, as scheduled, by the end of 1983. Preliminary commissioning of the plant and equipment is already under way. As recently announced, it is planned to transfer the bottling of Booth's gins and Cossack Vodka to Basildon in 1984.

The economic recession continued to depress the market for gin in the UK and to encourage the growth of cheaper brands, particularly those owned by major retail interests. It is therefore encouraging to report that sales of Gordon's exceeded those of the previous year and the brand maintained its strong position as market leader. Although Booth's Finest Dry Gin lost further market share in the year, sales of High & Dry Gin again made a useful contribution to the Group's performance.

After two exceptionally good years, when previous records were broken, export sales of Gordon's declined, primarily as a result of import restrictions in West Africa, a major export market. Gordon's and High & Dry increased shipments to France which continued its promising development as a gin market. Gordon's fared well in the markets in which it is produced locally, and the success of the brand in Spain merits special mention. There was, however, some loss of ground in the US and in New Zealand.

Exports of Tanqueray Gin to the US continued to grow steadily and the brand further consolidated its position of strength in the imported gin category. Shipments to other export markets also improved and of particular note was the performance in Canada.

Other potable products

Cossack Vodka experienced considerable pressure in the UK. However, the brand, with a recently introduced new bottle and label, is expected to make headway in the future.

Sales of Gordon's Vodka in the US, where it is produced locally, remained solid.

Cognac Hine achieved a significant increase in profits. During the year Hine acquired Denis Mounie Cognac SARL which owns the potentially valuable Denis Mounie and Comandon brands of cognac.

Food Group

The Food Group had an excellent year, during which increased sales and improved production techniques contributed to higher profits.

The Peerless Refining Company continued to suffer from adverse conditions and a proposal to purchase this company, received from Acatos & Hutcheson Ltd, was accepted.

Carbon dioxide

Carbon dioxide sales showed a small increase during the year. A high volume of plant installation business, particularly overseas, improved profitability on the engineering side and overall profits increased.

United Glass

Demand fell sharply with particularly adverse effects on the Glass Container Division. Although trading profits improved, redundancy payments and other costs of facility closures rose. The result was a reduction in the overall loss from £6.2 million in 1981 to £5.3 million.

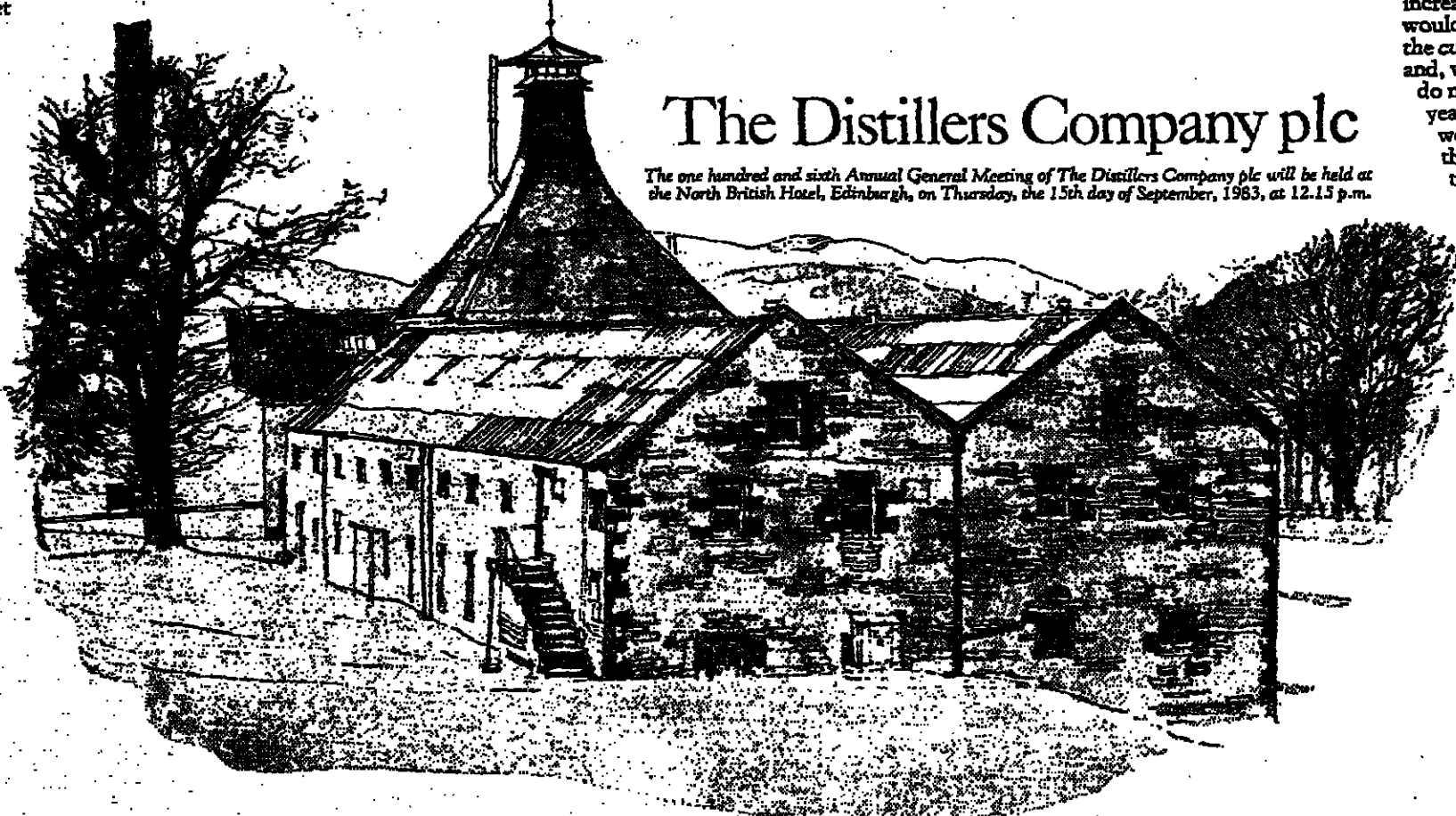
Trading conditions worsened in the first quarter of 1983 and further steps have recently been announced to restore a reasonable balance between production and demand.

Personnel

The year was relatively free of local industrial disputes. The Group's employees worked hard to help to achieve the year's results in difficult trading conditions and the Board expresses its sincere appreciation of their efforts.

Future prospects

The Directors' Report highlights the difficult trading conditions prevailing in a number of important export markets, and stresses that the apparent improved consumer confidence in the United States is not yet being reflected in spirit sales. An intensely competitive situation continues to prevail not only within the spirits industry but in the wider field of alcoholic beverages generally, and recent price increases in export markets have had to take account of what would be commercially sustainable. Against that background the current year cannot be viewed as one of great promise and, with the experience of fifteen weeks behind us, we do not expect the volume of sales to match that of last year. In the absence of any significant upturn in world markets, therefore, present indications are that the results for the current year are unlikely to reach those we are now presenting.



The Distillers Company plc

The one hundred and sixth Annual General Meeting of The Distillers Company plc will be held at the North British Hotel, Edinburgh, on Thursday, the 15th day of September, 1983, at 12.15 p.m.

Town where the America's Cup runneth over

Third suspected death in kidney disease outbreak

By Arthur O'Shea

A third death was reported yesterday in the outbreak of the kidney disease, Haemolytic Uraemic Syndrome, which has affected four areas of the country.

In Nottingham, not until now affected, a girl aged nine died on August 17. Dr Norman Miles, the area health authority medical officer said last night: "It is 95 per cent certain that she died from the disease. A post-mortem has been carried out and further tests are being made. I am treating it as an isolated case and there is no cause for alarm."

Over the past two months two deaths have been reported in the Black Country, a woman aged 59 at West Bromwich and a girl aged 20 at Willenhall near Wolverhampton. The number of children affected in the Black Country, Manchester and Sheffield totals 23.

Many have received treatment on kidney dialysis machines. Some are being given doses of vitamin E but it has been emphasized this is not a "miracle cure".

Health officials in three cities are working with the communicable diseases surveillance centre at Colindale, north London, in an effort to find the cause of the outbreak.

The Trent regional health authority at Sheffield said that so far its area six children had been treated for the illness at the Sheffield Children's Hospital and three were still in hospital.

They come from the hospital's catchment area of Sheffield, Rotherham and Chesterfield. Last year, the hospital treated four cases and two of the children died.

In Manchester, Dr Michael Painter of the public health

laboratory at Whittington Hospital said that four children had been affected since July, all of primary school age, from the Manchester area. All had recovered fully although two had needed kidney dialysis treatment.

Dr Paul Gully of Birmingham, a consultant in community medicine said the outbreak in the other cities should provide valuable information. He commented: "When a case is reported, we are asking those investigating it to ask a set number of questions in the hope that we can find a common factor."

"We normally get a few cases of this disease in the summer and autumn period, but because of the publicity this year, more are being reported than normal. Hopefully, with the added information and more suggestions from people up and down the country, we can establish a cause."

"My job, with other community physicians, is to try to establish a cause while clinicians work on a cure. We have received many suggestions as to a possible cause and are now getting down to the task of examining them."

The Centre for Applied Microbiology Science at Porton Down, Wiltshire, has blood samples from all the infected children in the Black Country; cultures have been prepared in the hope of isolating the suspected virus.

But yesterday, an official said that the centre had no progress to report. It could take up to a week for anything to grow.

The Department of Health said that there were usually between 18 and 20 cases of the disease in the United Kingdom each year.

Expert argues for ban on chemical weapons

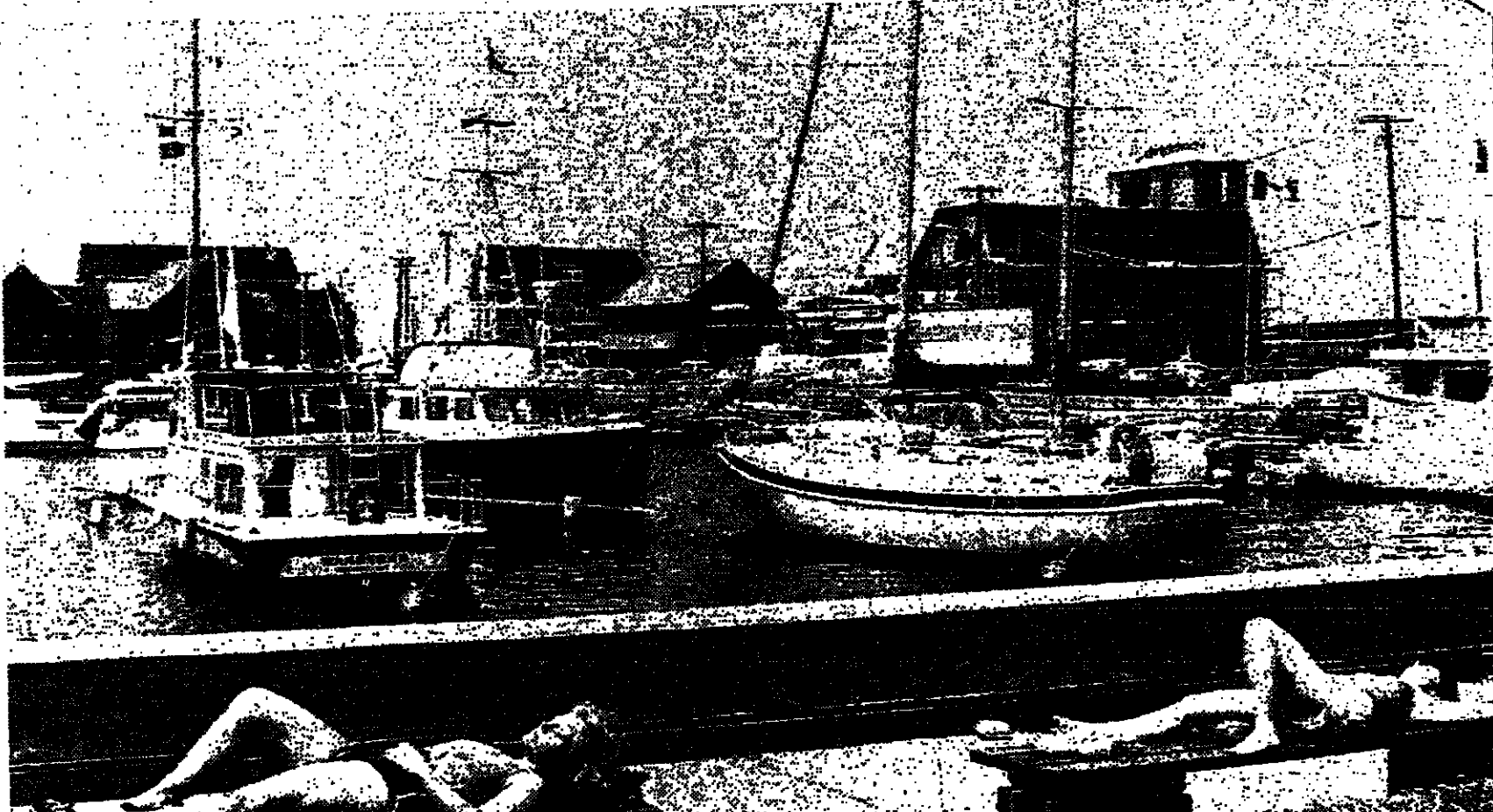
Continued from page 1

lethal substances because countries insist on the right to make and use them as riot-control agents. He suggests abolishing the most biologically hazardous of these agents and confining others, with no legitimate civil application, to limited production under special licence.

He sees the most difficult issue as the question of compounds lethal only when two substances - relatively harmless when apart - are

combined during weapon-flight to produce a potent toxin, and argues that more elaborate controls are needed for some common commercial chemicals that could be misapplied.

Destruction of stockpiles of super-toxic agents would need a group of on-site inspectors with expertise in analytical control and book-keeping. Verifying that no new substance was being made would present difficulties, whereas suspicion of testing could be verified by satellite surveillance.



A place in the Newport sun for some, while invisible yachts fight it out for the cup. Photographs: Bob Adelman

devices, and Newport is a T-shirt town.

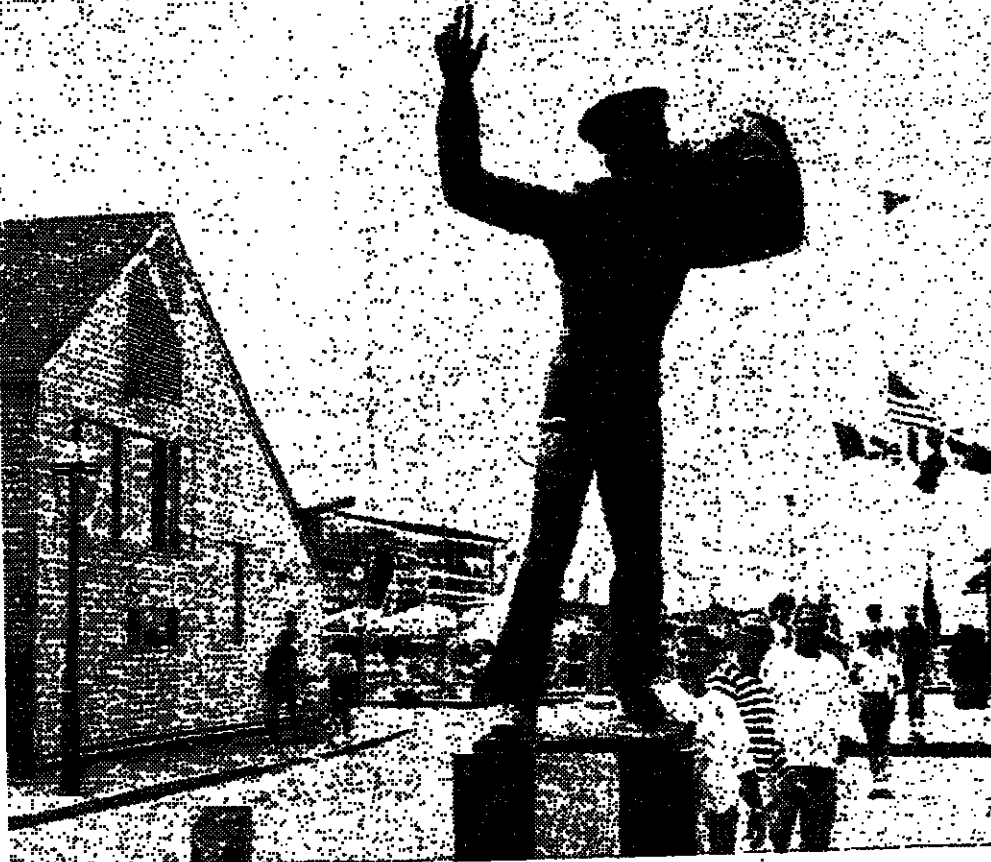
It has to be said that while thousands of people are milling about reading each other's chests, eating clams and drinking America's Cup White, a cheeky, if rather thin little wine, there are many men here taking life very seriously indeed.

Crews are as battle ready and as dedicated as commandos, their muscles hard after long months of training and their team spirit sharpened by coaches and psychologists.

Tensions are particularly tight this year because America's hold on a trophy it has never lost in the 132-year history of the competition has never been so seriously threatened. The teeth are being bared.

On present form the Australians are favourites to beat Britain for the right to take on the Americans in the final showdown next month. The Americans are worried because the Australians have closed the technology gap with a controversial delta-winged keel the Americans think may not be kosher and which they are still trying to have ruled illegal.

There is a lot of huffing and psychological warfare in America's Cup racing and the Australians are reveling in the fuss their secret weapon has



Ancient mariner stands firm among the T-shirts.

caused. The Fosters lager flag flying over their dock has the look of the Jolly Roger. The Australians still put a modesty skirt around the keel when the yacht is hauled out of the water each evening, and have posted guards to stop peekers.

Naturally you can buy a "secret keel" T-shirt.

The seriousness of this year's challenge offers a conundrum. The British and Australian hopefuls are more competitive than any previous challengers and are in a long line of challengers who over the years have spent millions of pounds to win the ugly old pot. But the quintessence and mystique of the competition lies in the fact that the Americans have never lost the cup. It may be sentimental to say so, but if the Australians win the America's Cup the competition will never be the same again. Much of its magic will have vanished like the money spent to get it.

Newport, the America's Cup city, would be appalled. The traders would be downcast. And imagine the feelings of an American skipper who lost the America's Cup. The Americans would probably want to keelhaul him and would no doubt ask the Australians if they could borrow their controversial keel for the purpose.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

New exhibitions

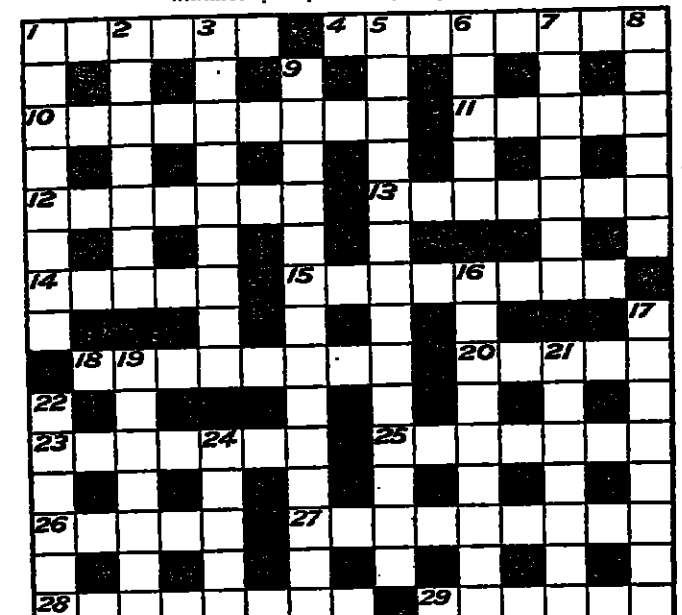
The Last Beduin of Jordan, the Asley Cheetham art gallery, Trinity Street, Stalybridge; Tues to Fri 10 to 8, Sat 9 to 4 (until Oct 6).
Oxford University and College Portraits since 1800 and 20th Century Portrait Drawings; Ashmolean Museum, Oxford; Tues to Sat 10 to 4, Sun 2 to 4 (until Oct 23).

Oil Paintings by Kenneth Wynn

Able Tree House, 9 Fort Street, Baddeley Salterton, Devon; Tues to Sat 10 to 5 (until Sept 3).
Man and Music, Royal Scottish Museum, Chamber Street, Edinburgh; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until Jan 15, 1984).
So this is what we do with the lead: Peak District Museum, Pump Room, Pavilion, Matlock Bath, Derbyshire; daily 11 to 5 (until Sept 11).
Action Portraits Scottish press

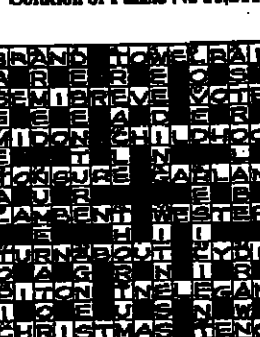
The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,212

This puzzle, used at the London B regional final of the Collins Dictionary Times Crossword Championship, was solved within 30 minutes by 19 per cent of the finalists.



- ACROSS
- Old geographer gives nothing to London hospital in return (6).
 - It's the bar of the court, there's no denying (8).
 - Beat artist (9).
 - Brother (or other relation) of Valentine (5).
 - Strut into stone (7).
 - Hoffmann's girl shared the fate of Belloc's Matilda (7).
 - Charles has no directions for chopping tree (5).
 - There's nothing right in evil practices - they suck you down (8).
 - Trial, say, you do of Roman military defence (7).
 - Reveal French article, about finished (7).
 - Student owns a place in Tibet (5).
 - Need of money - so cautious a bird (9).
 - Cry about a mere disaster, egg milk split here? (8).
 - East German terminus for Belgian destination (6).
- DOWN
- Fond of company, Italian and Greek islands rise to receive one (8).
 - Of independent means, is he a rip? That's right (7).
 - Crashing a car - a habit of Toad and Co (9).
 - Plant benefiting from Norval's father's fragility (9, 5).
 - Empty-headed, obstinate - what a reputation! (5).
 - Recreation when enjoyed by the older generation (7).
 - Fallen, it yells herein for mercy (6).
 - Remark about railway's first provision for sightseers (11, 3).
 - Press annoyed by German award (4, 5).
 - False beard - yet was shopped (8).
 - Snoopy place to seal the limelight? (7).
 - How to get round something, or perhaps about it (7).
 - Such characters are inclined to show stress (6).
 - A foreign member's pacifist suggestion (5).

Solution of Puzzle No 16,211



Prize Crossword in The Times tomorrow

photography Scottish National

Portraits, Gallery, Queen Street, Edinburgh; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until Oct 20).
Exhibitions in progress
Tory Island Painters and Aspects of Drawing, Arts Council Gallery, Bedford Street, Belfast; Tues to Sat 10 to 6 (closes Sept 3).
The Human Form: Alick Knox and Catherine McWilliams, Peacock Gallery, Craigavon, Northern Ireland.
Summer exhibition: including miniatures by Wendy Zollinger and works by George Guest, Trevor Grimshaw, Donald Crossley, Bhuslav Barlow and Tom Durkin, the Looking Glass Gallery, 53 Halifax Road, Tulsea, Tynes to Sat 10 to 5.30 (closes Sept 24).
Celtic Art, Ashmolean Museum, Beaumont Street, Oxford; Tues to Sat (inc Bank holidays) 10 to 4, Sun 2 to 4 (closes Oct 4).
Music
Baroque orchestral music on original instruments, Ducky Grammar School, Tregre, nr Truro, 8.
Concert by the Ulster Orchestra, Whirla Hall, Belfast, Northern Ireland, 7.45.
Recital by Mark Whale, violin, and Andrew Bottrill, piano, St Andrew's Church, Penarth, Cumbria, 7.30.
Six organ recitals, no 6, Martin Neary, Christ Church, Cathedral, Oxford.
Recital by St Anne's Cathedral Choir, Belfast, at Lincoln Minster, Lincoln, 7.30.
General
Alternative Cabaret at the Third Eye Centre, 350 Sauchiball Street, Glasgow, 9.
Winning designs in the Johnson Plaster design competition, the Design Centre, 72 Vincent Street, Glasgow; Mon to Fri 9.30 to 5, Sat 9 to 5 (closes today).
Births: John Dryden, Aldwinkle, Northamptonshire, 1631; John Denby, Derbyshire, 1646; Antonio Salieri, composer, Legnano, Italy, 1750; James Nasmyth, inventor of the steam hammer, Edinburgh, 1808; Charles Doughty, Arabian traveller, Leiston, Suffolk, 1843; Orville Wright, aviation pioneer, Dayton, Ohio, 1871; Desiderius Erasmus, philosopher, Paris, 1662; Sir Henry Wood, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, 1944.

Anniversaries

Births: John Dryden, Aldwinkle, Northamptonshire, 1631; John Denby, Derbyshire, 1646; Antonio Salieri, composer, Legnano, Italy, 1750; James Nasmyth, inventor of the steam hammer, Edinburgh, 1808; Charles Doughty, Arabian traveller, Leiston, Suffolk, 1843; Orville Wright, aviation pioneer, Dayton, Ohio, 1871; Desiderius Erasmus, philosopher, Paris, 1662; Sir Henry Wood, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, 1944.

The warm south

In a blind tasting of Provence wines, experts chose as the best available in Britain: Chateau Grand Senil 1980 VDQS Coteaux d'Aix, Cork and Bottles, 44, rue de la République, 13100, Marseilles, France, 1981, AC Cotes de Provence, Caves de la Madeleine, Pithou, Mar, SW10, £3.65; and as particularly good value for money, Billede de Provence, Lisle, AC Cotes de Provence, International Stores, £2.39.
Source: Decanter Magazine, August.

Top films

- 1 Outpost
 - 2 Return of the Jedi
 - 3 Superman III
 - 4 Morry Pothol's The Meaning of Life
 - 5 Flashdance
 - 6 Educating Rita
 - 7 Heat and Dust
 - 8 Tootsie
 - 9 Raiders of the Lost Ark
 - 10 An Officer and a Gentleman
- The top five in the provinces:
1 Outpost
2 Superman III
3 Heat and Dust
4 Tootsie
5 Educating Rita.
Compiled by Screen International

The pound

| | Bank | Bank |
|-----------------|---------|---------|
| | Buy | Sell |
| Australia \$ | 1.79 | 1.71 |
| Austria Sch | 29.20 | 27.65 |
| Belgium Fr | 83.25 | 79.25 |
| Canada \$ | 1.93 | 1.85 |
| Denmark Kr | 14.92 | 14.22 |
| Finland Mk | 8.92 | 8.52 |
| France Fr | 12.39 | 11.84 |
| Germany DM | 4.13 | 3.93 |
| Greece Dr | 145.00 | 133.00 |
| Hong Kong \$ | 11.60 | 10.95 |
| Ireland P | 1.31 | 1.25 |
| Italy Lira | 2465.00 | 2345.00 |
| Japan Yen | 387.00 | 367.00 |
| Netherlands Gld | 4.62 | 4.40 |
| Norway Kr | 11.61 | 11.04 |
| Portugal Esc | 189.00 | 179.00 |
| Spain Ptas | 1.59 | 1.54 |
| South Africa Rd | 232.50 | 221.50 |
| Sweden Kr | 12.28 | 11.68 |
| Switzerland Fr | 3.37 | 3.20 |
| USA \$ | 1.56 | 1.51 |
| Yugoslavia Dnr | 156.00 | 144.00 |

Notes for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied yesterday by Barclay Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency.

Retail Price Index: 336.5
London: the FT Index closed up 2.9 at 738.9

Food prices

New season English Discovery apples are in the shops at 40p to 55p a pound and have attracted much favourable comment. Peaches and nectarines are plentiful, but the former are not always fully ripe and fluctuate considerably in price, value at between 40p and 50p, depending on size, as are Italian blue plums, 25 to 45p a pound and green plums, 20 to 25p. Best buys among homegrown fruit are blackberries, 60 to 80p a pound and blackcurrants 50 to 70p. English runner beans 50 to 60p a pound, calabrese 50 to 80p, cauliflower 35 to 45p each, courgettes 30 to 45p a pound and marrow 25 to 30p each are all recommended. Despite predicted price rises later in the year, English new potatoes, both red and white are good value at 10 to 15p a pound. So too are tomatoes at 25 to 45p a pound and celery at 30 to 50p a head.

The outstanding seasonal meat buy is home produced lamb at £1.19 to £1.64 a pound for whole legs and shoulders from 68p to £1.10. For those with large freezers this is a good time to buy in winter stocks. Sainsbury's have reduced pork prices - 82p a pound for whole leg for example and Tesco have fore rib of beef at £1.58 and boneless back ribs at £1.44.

Roads

London and South-east: A406: Single lane traffic on either carriageway on North Circular Road, Edgware; max 20 and 30 roads in High Street, Rayleigh, Essex: M26: single lane eastbound between Sevenoaks and M20 interchange at Wrotham.
Midlands: M6: One carriageway shared between junctions 10 and 11 (Walsall and Cannock); M1: One carriageway shared between junctions 15 and 16, Northampton. A49/A465: Diversion at Belmont Roundabout, Hereford.
Wales and West: A449: Single lane traffic north of Usk, Gwent. A38: Lane closure at Marsh Mills Viaduct, Plymouth; A4044: Diversion at Temple Way, Bristol.
North: A1: Southern end of Bedford by-pass, Northamptonshire; A566: Westbound traffic diverted at Carrington Road, Stockport, Greater Manchester; A66: Diversion, delays at Eden Bridge, Kirkby Thore, near Appleby, Cumbria.
Scotland: A87: Temporary traffic lights at Inverinate, near Dornie, Ross and Cromarty; A7: Temporary traffic lights south of Goresbridge, Midlothian.

The Papers

The New York Times said that it was rare for a proud and powerful nation to admit shabby behaviour but that is what the United States had done in the Klaus Barbie case. Shameful as the episode was, the admission of blame the United States made on Tuesday, first to itself and then to France, went far to redress national honour, the paper commented. The salvaged honour, it claimed, came from a comprehensive Justice Department report that served history and invited us to learn from it. Let us what it asks. "That there is a difference between doing business with repugnant informers, even Nazis, and the far dirtier business of projecting accused war criminals."

The Daily Mirror makes its own bid in the "stranger than fiction" stakes with the story of Mr Sayed Abdul Mabood, who was challenged by immigration officials at Heathrow. Suspicious by nature, they thought he was having them on when he showed a passport giving his birthdate as December 13, 1823. "Not so," they were told, Mr Mabood, a citizen of Pakistan has a son of 100 and another of 93, plus 12 other children. Listing "great events" of that year, the paper asks: "Isn't the most remarkable thing about 1823 simply that it was the year in which Mr Mabood was born?"

Burning topic

The Central Office of Information point out that before burning any waste straw or stubble, farmers should read the NFU Code on Straw and Stubble Burning. The code says that before starting to burn straw you should give advance warning to your neighbours, the local fire brigade, public owners of adjoining lands and if you're near a built-up area, to the local environmental health department. The fines for breaking local bylaws have been raised to £1,000. Free copies of the code are available from local ADAS or NFU offices.

Weather forecast

Pressure will be low to the SW of the British Isles and a thundery trough will move into SW districts.

6 am to midnight

London, SE England, East Angles, E Midlands: Sunny periods, perhaps isolated thundery showers developing; SE moderate; max 24 to 26C (75-79F).
Central S, SW England, W Midlands, Channel Islands, West of Isles: Moderate, thundery showers; wind SE moderate or fresh; max temp 22 to 24C (72-75F).
E, central N England, Isle of Man: Sunny periods, perhaps isolated thundery showers; wind SE moderate; max temp 22 to 24C (72-75F).
Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, central Highlands: Sunny periods, dry and SE moderate; max temp 21 to 23C (70-74F).
Moray Firth, NE, NW Scotland, Argyll, Orkney, Northern Hebrides: Rather cloudy at first with a little rain, becoming brighter and drier later; wind S light; max temp 17-20C (63-68F).
Shetland: Rather cloudy at first with rain, brighter and drier later; wind S light; max temp 14C (57F).
Outlook for tomorrow and Sunday: Showers, thundery in places at first, but clearing, becoming sunny. Becoming a little cooler.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea: wind moderate or fresh, sea slight or moderate. Straits of Dover, English Channel (E): wind E moderate or fresh occasionally strong in Straits of Dover; sea slight or moderate locally rough. Dover Strait: St George's Channel, Irish Sea: wind SE moderate locally fresh later; sea slight or moderate.

Sun rises: 5.51am Sun sets: 8.18pm
Moon rises: 1.6am Moon sets: 6.32pm
Full Moon August 23

Lighting-up time

London 6.46 pm to 6.55 am
Edinburgh 6.11 pm to 6.25 am
Manchester 6.00 pm to 6.20 am
Penzance 5.04 pm to 6.48 am

Yesterday

| | C | F |
|-------------|------|------|
| London | 19 | 66 |
| Edinburgh | 18 | 64 |
| Manchester | 17 | 63 |
| Penzance | 16 | 61 |
| Cardiff | 15 | 59 |
| Belfast | 14 | 57 |
| Sheffield | 13 | 55 |
| Nottingham | 12 | 54 |
| Leeds | 11 | 52 |
| Birmingham | 10 | 50 |
| Coventry | 9 | 48 |
| Blackpool | 8 | 46 |
| Southampton | 7 | 45 |
| Exeter | 6 | 43 |
| Gloucester | 5 | 41 |
| Reading | 4 | 39 |
| London | 3 | 37 |
| Edinburgh | 2 | 36 |
| Manchester | 1 | 34 |
| Penzance | 0 | 32 |
| Cardiff | -1 | 30 |
| Belfast | -2 | 28 |
| Sheffield | -3 | 26 |
| Nottingham | -4 | 25 |
| Leeds | -5 | 23 |
| Birmingham | -6 | 21 |
| Coventry | -7 | 19 |
| Blackpool | -8 | 17 |
| Southampton | -9 | 15 |
| Exeter | -10 | 13 |
| Gloucester | -11 | 11 |
| Reading | -12 | 9 |
| London | -13 | 7 |
| Edinburgh | -14 | 5 |
| Manchester | -15 | 3 |
| Penzance | -16 | 1 |
| Cardiff | -17 | -1 |
| Belfast | -18 | -3 |
| Sheffield | -19 | -5 |
| Nottingham | -20 | -7 |
| Leeds | -21 | -9 |
| Birmingham | -22 | -11 |
| Coventry | -23 | -13 |
| Blackpool | -24 | -15 |
| Southampton | -25 | -17 |
| Exeter | -26 | -19 |
| Gloucester | -27 | -21 |
| Reading | -28 | -23 |
| London | -29 | -25 |
| Edinburgh | -30 | -27 |
| Manchester | -31 | -29 |
| Penzance | -32 | -31 |
| Cardiff | -33 | -33 |
| Belfast | -34 | -35 |
| Sheffield | -35 | -37 |
| Nottingham | -36 | -39 |
| Leeds | -37 | -41 |
| Birmingham | -38 | -43 |
| Coventry | -39 | -45 |
| Blackpool | -40 | -47 |
| Southampton | -41 | -49 |
| Exeter | -42 | -51 |
| Gloucester | -43 | -53 |
| Reading | -44 | -55 |
| London | -45 | -57 |
| Edinburgh | -46 | -59 |
| Manchester | -47 | -61 |
| Penzance | -48 | -63 |
| Cardiff | -49 | -65 |
| Belfast | -50 | -67 |
| Sheffield | -51 | -69 |
| Nottingham | -52 | -71 |
| Leeds | -53 | -73 |
| Birmingham | -54 | -75 |
| Coventry | -55 | -77 |
| Blackpool | -56 | -79 |
| Southampton | -57 | -81 |
| Exeter | -58 | -83 |
| Gloucester | -59 | -85 |
| Reading | -60 | -87 |
| London | -61 | -89 |
| Edinburgh | -62 | -91 |
| Manchester | -63 | -93 |
| Penzance | -64 | -95 |
| Cardiff | -65 | -97 |
| Belfast | -66 | -99 |
| Sheffield | -67 | -101 |
| Nottingham | -68 | -103 |
| Leeds | -69 | -105 |
| Birmingham | -70 | -107 |
| Coventry | -71 | -109 |
| Blackpool | -72 | -111 |
| Southampton | -73 | -113 |
| Exeter | -74 | -115 |
| Gloucester | -75 | -117 |
| Reading | -76 | -119 |
| London | -77 | -121 |
| Edinburgh | -78 | -123 |
| Manchester | -79 | -125 |
| Penzance | -80 | -127 |
| Cardiff | -81 | -129 |
| Belfast | -82 | -131 |
| Sheffield | -83 | -133 |
| Nottingham | -84 | -135 |
| Leeds | -85 | -137 |
| Birmingham | -86 | -139 |
| Coventry | -87 | -141 |
| Blackpool | -88 | -143 |
| Southampton | -89 | -145 |
| Exeter | -90 | -147 |
| Gloucester | -91 | -149 |
| Reading | -92 | -151 |
| London | -93 | -153 |
| Edinburgh | -94 | -155 |
| Manchester | -95 | -157 |
| Penzance | -96 | -159 |
| Cardiff | -97 | -161 |
| Belfast | -98 | -163 |
| Sheffield | -99 | -165 |
| Nottingham | -100 | -167 |

Highest and lowest

Highest day temp: London 27C (81F), lowest night temp: London 15C (59F).
Highest night temp: London 15C (59F), lowest day temp: London 15C (59F).
Highest day temp: London 27C (81F), lowest night temp: London 15C (59F).
Highest night temp: London 15C (59F), lowest day temp: London 15C (59F).